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Moody Bridges

Pondicherry

And

The Beginnings of Bridgton

Blynn Edwin Davis

Moody Bridges

Pondicherry

And

The Beginnings of Bridgton

Blynn Edwin Davis

Bridgton, Maine

"Let us now praise famous men —"

"All these were honored in their generations, and were the glory of their times."

"And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished, as though they had never been; and are become as though they had never been born; and their children after them."

Ecclesiasticus 44

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Introduction

In the Address delivered by the Honorable Marshall Cram at the dedication of the new Town House in Bridgton on January 8, 1852, we find that:

"In 1767, the proprietors gave their township the name of Bridgton, in honor of Moody Bridges, who was one of the proprietors and a son of James Bridges, one of the original grantees."

Marshall Cram was the first historian of Bridgton, and the 44-page pamphlet containing his Address is a priceless source of information concerning the early years of Bridgton's history. Nearly all of the printed sketches of this early period are based upon this Address and the accuracy of the material painstakingly assembled by Mr. Cram has rarely been challenged. He gathered his data more than a century ago when many of the early inhabitants were still living, and his research has left us reliable and interesting fragments of our historical lore.

In the thirty pages of the text of his historical Address, Mr. Cram refers to Moody Bridges only six times, and once in a footnote. He states that Mr. Bridges was a member of the proprietors' committee which petitioned for a township in 1761, a member of the committee which laid out the township prior to the grant of 1765, and that he was the first member of the committee which had the township surveyed in 1766. He adds that in this connection Mr. Bridges ran some of the range lines himself. His final reference to Mr. Bridges is significant, and requires explanation.

In order to encourage the settlers to enlarge and improve their holdings, the proprietors offered the inducement of granting an extra lot of land called a "merited lot". Their first proposal was to give one hundred acres of the common land in the Second Division of lots, so called, in the area located to the east of Long Pond, to each

settler who should have twelve acres of land cleared, a house built, and a family settled in the township, by the year 1771. For various reasons the settlement did not grow so fast as the proprietors had expected, and in 1772 they extended the time to the last day of July, 1773, reducing the acreage to be cleared to six acres. In 1773 they again extended the time to December 25, 1774, with the other requirements remaining the same.

Conditions on the frontier remained unsettled, especially during the Revolutionary War, and this matter seems to have been neglected by the proprietors until, in June, 1782, a special committee appointed for that purpose met to ascertain which of the settlers had qualified for the special grant of a "merited lot". The decision was that eight settlers had qualified for one lot each, and that Benjamin Kimball and Jacob Stevens, our first two settlers merited two lots each. Then, Mr. Cram adds:

"This report was accepted by the proprietors, and at a later period, they granted to Moody Bridges and Steven Johnson one lot each, in consideration of their having made early settlements in the township."

This is Mr. Cram's last reference to Moody Bridges, and it would be very interesting if we could know more about what happened with reference to this merited lot. It might be of interest to know why this decision was postponed until "a later period". We would also like to know on what lot of land Moody Bridges had the clearing made and the house built, and who settled upon the lot so cleared. We do not believe that Moody Bridges ever came to live in Bridgton. He lived in Andover, Massachusetts, as did many of the proprietors. A careful reading of the terms established by the proprietors for granting the merited lots indicates that the recipient of such a lot could well have had some one else clear the land and build the house, and he could have settled some other family than his own on the land so cleared. In a brief footnote appended by Mr. Cram, he states that until 1777 Moody Bridges served in Andover as the Proprietors' Clerk. We shall show later that he was far too busy dur-

ing the years when Bridgton was being settled to acquire a residence in the new township. Hence, he must have settled some other family than his own on the lot. Further research may solve this problem.

Moody Bridges had no biographer, and very little has been printed about him or the other proprietors or grantees. In fact, so little has been known about him that he seems more legendary than real. However, the other proprietors obviously held him in high esteem, and he had so much to do with the events of our early history that he deserves a far more important place than he now fills in our lore of the past.

We have had to range far afield for the few facts now available about him. The passage of two centuries has left only widely scattered references to his life and achievements, and our story of the man has been painstakingly interpreted from such data as we have been able to gather. Nevertheless, the study has been rewarding. The research into the life of Mr. Bridges developed some unsuspected connections with other outstanding men of Andover, Massachusetts, in the pre-Revolutionary days, and brought to light interesting data on the beginnings of Bridgton. An unexpected discovery was the close relationship between Bridgton and Fryeburg in those early days. As we weigh and consider the facts gathered over the years, we find more and more the stature of the man revealed, and we find it not difficult to understand why his fellow proprietors honored Moody Bridges by naming their township for him.

The Bridges Ancestry

The pattern of the life of Moody Bridges will be much better understood if we become acquainted with some of his ancestors, for the Bridges were prominent in Andover for several generations. Because the ancient lineage of this family is buried in the musty records of the dim past in England, we must begin our study with the life of the immigrant ancestor, Edmund Bridges, who came to Lynn, Massachusetts, in the early seventeenth century when the tide of immigration was becoming strong. The records which have come down to us from those early years are very sketchy, often conflicting and unreliable, and the following account is as accurate as our research can make it.

EDMUND BRIDGES 1 was born in England about 1612, because he deposed in 1658 that his age was 46. At the age of 23 years, probably in July, 1635, he came to America in the ship James. One account says he came in 1633. He was known as a blacksmith. Boston had just been settled, and the settlements along the coast were growing fast. Good artisans were in demand, and he was sure of work. He settled shortly in Lynn, and was soon listed there as a proprietor.

Edmund Bridges was made a freeman September 7, 1639, possibly in Lynn. Soon he moved farther north to Rowley and was living there in 1641 when he had a lawsuit in Ipswich. Later he became a proprietor in Rowley. The General Court ordered him May 26, 1647, " to answer at Essex Court for neglect to further public service by delaying to shoe Mr. Symond's horse when he was about to come to General Court". He lived in Ipswich, was made a commoner there as early as 1664, and was a voter there in 1679. He lived in Andover and finally moved to Topsfield, where he died. The date of his death is given as Jan-

uary 13, 1684, but his will was dated January 6, 1694, and it was proved March 31, 1695. It is probable that he died in either 1694 or 1695 at the age of 81 or 82.

During his migratory life in America, Edmund Bridges married three times, and one record has nine children listed. His first wife's name was Alice, and she was his wife in 1641. His second wife's name was Elizabeth, and we know only that she died on December 31, 1664. Life was especially difficult for women in pioneer days, and Alice and Elizabeth probably found wilderness life too severe. Edmund was left with a family of children who needed a mother's care, and he married on April 6, 1665, Mary Littlehale, who was the widow of Richard Littlehale. She remained his wife for more than a quarter of a century and died October 21, 1691. He seems to have outlived three wives.

When Edmund Bridges arrived in Lynn, the town was not even called Lynn, but was known until 1637 as Saugus. The first counties in Massachusetts were not established until 1643. In the half century and more that he lived in America, he saw the frontier recede mile after mile toward the west, as the new communities were settled farther and farther from the seaboard. He lived to see many of these new communities all but wiped out in the devastating King Philip's War of 1675, and he lived to see the beginning of King William's War in which occurred an enterprise known as the Canada Expedition of 1690. He knew two score years of comparative peace, and he lived through many eventful years of changing frontier life. He was withal a sturdy pioneer. We follow the career of his fourth child, John.

JOHN BRIDGES 2 (Edmund 1) was born in Andover and lived there until about 1690, when he moved to Mendon, where he was living in 1704. He married (1) on December 6, 1666, Sarah How, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Dane) How, of Ipswich. He married (2) on March 1, 1678, a widow, Mary Post, in Andover. John Bridges was evidently old enough to take part in King

Philip's War, but we do not know how great a share he may have had in the stirring events of the time. He may have shared in the Canada Expedition of 1690, but this is doubtful, because such enterprises were for the younger men. Like his father, he lived through some eventful years. He saw the beginning of the century of strife and warfare which terrorized and devastated the New England frontier from King Philip's War to the close of the Revolutionary War, and his descendants were to share in the toil and stress of those many turbulent years. A student of the early history of the town of Andover, Massachusetts, Edmund F. Leland, has credited John Bridges with having built in 1680 the older part of the so-called "Bridges mansion" in North Andover, and having added the newer part in 1723. The house was called a "mansion" because it had "both a front and back stairs". This house was occupied by several generations of the Bridges family, including Moody Bridges, and the farm, now known as the Marble Ridge Farm, is owned by Mr. Leland.

One account states that John Bridges died in 1736, at what must have been a very advanced age. He was apparently a prosperous and respected citizen, living in that part of old Andover now known as North Andover. We follow the career of his oldest child, James.

JAMES BRIDGES 3 (John 2, Edmund 1) was born January 3, 1671, in Andover, and was baptized in Topsfield. He lived in Andover and married there May 24, 1692, Sarah, the daughter of John and Martha Marston, and four children are listed in the old records. James Bridges was a young man of nineteen years of age when he enlisted in the Expedition of 1690. He was a yeoman and became a blacksmith and maltster. Sarah Bridges died in Andover September 18, 1736, and James died there April 24, 1739, at the age of 68, outliving his wife and at least one of his children.

James Bridges 3 was too young to know much about previous wars, but he was not too young to enlist with the

Massachusetts troops in the Canada Expedition of 1690, and herein lies the connection between the Bridges family and the Town of Bridgton. Had there been no campaign in 1690, there doubtless would have been no town named Bridgton. In order to make this statement clear, we must digress and sketch briefly the historical background of King William's War.

By right of discovery, France claimed on the continent of America the valleys of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi Rivers, while England laid claim to all territory south and east of these two valleys, and even turned covetous eyes toward all territory claimed by France.

Hostilities between these two rival powers brought about bitter warfare in America, and because of the peculiar geography of the Atlantic seaboard, this warfare always began with attacks on the English settlements by war parties of Indians inspired and led by French officers from the Montreal and Quebec settlements, and retaliation by the English generally took the form of expeditions sent to attack those Canadian strongholds.

In the early years of the English colonies, the colonists had enjoyed comparative peace until King Philip stirred up the Indians in 1675, but after that for more than a century the Northern border had only brief periods of relief from the horrors of Indian raids. The growing power of France led Louis XIV to challenge the prestige of the English, and William III had no sooner become King of England in 1688 than he was compelled to wage a disastrous war mainly against France, a conflict that was known in America as King William's War, 1689 - 1697. War was declared in May, 1689, and on June 27, 1689, the French and Indians attacked Dover, New Hampshire, killing 23 people and capturing 29. Thus and so speedily did hostilities begin in America.

In August, 1689, Pemaquid was attacked, Schenectady was destroyed February 9, 1690, and there were attacks on Salmon Falls and Casco Bay. New England was thoroughly aroused, and campaigns against Canada

were planned in an effort to crush the power of the French and to destroy their influence over the Indians. An expedition against Montreal by way of Lake Champlain was started with troops from New York and Connecticut, but jealousies and disagreements so weakened their effectiveness that the expedition had to be abandoned.

Massachusetts authorities undertook the task of capturing Port Royal in Nova Scotia and also the city of Quebec, and an expedition of 34 ships and 2000 troops under Sir William Phipps, who later became Governor of Massachusetts, embarked on this venture in 1690. This force really did capture Port Royal and so rendered Nova Scotia harmless, and if it had returned to Boston from this victory, the expedition might have been deemed highly successful. The fortifications at Port Royal were formidable, and its capture was an achievement worthy of note. However, the fleet sailed onward toward Quebec, dallying so long upon the way to that stronghold that the French had sufficient time to fortify the town and prepare for the attack. The resulting conflict was a complete victory for the French and Indians, and, to make the matter worse, on the return voyage the fleet ran into trouble on the shoals of the St. Lawrence, and nine vessels were lost.

The English lost ships, men, and prestige in this abortive attempt to drive the French out of Canada, but some results of the Expedition are of interest to us. The Province of Massachusetts had undertaken this enterprise without asking assistance from the other Colonies, in spite of the fact that its inhabitants were struggling for existence with very limited resources. In consequence, the Province did not have money available to pay the soldiers and sailors for their services, and the heavy debt contracted had to be met in other ways. One historian states that the debt was paid in part with "bills of credit", which were made legal tender in the Province for the payment of private debts, and he calls this the "origin of paper money in America". This may easily be understood when we consider that the sum of fifty thousand pounds was issued in the form of scrip varying in amounts from two

shillings to ten pounds. These "bills of credit" paid to the men of Phipps' command, whom we shall call later the "Veterans of 1690", may have circulated for years before they were redeemed from the public treasury.

The Province of Massachusetts was not, however, completely impoverished, because another source of wealth was available to the Colony in those early years. There were many square miles of wild land in the Bay State alone, and the Province of Maine contained many more square miles of uncharted wilderness. Massachusetts had gained control over the southwest portion of Maine about 1677 and gradually acquired jurisdiction over the remaining part because the settlements along the Maine coast needed protection. In fact, by 1690 the coastal settlements in Maine had been reduced to four, Wells, York, Kittery, and the Isle of Shoals, because of the Indian raids, and this situation made the overlordship of the larger Colony a dire necessity. Maine remained a District of Massachusetts until statehood was granted in 1820. With all this virgin wilderness available, the General Court was quite willing to pay off its war obligations with grants of wild land large enough to form townships, a form of compensation not unusual during the entire eighteenth century. Such grants not only paid debts and satisfied persistent creditors, but they also extended the fringe of settlements gradually away from the coast and thus served to move the frontier farther and farther into the wilderness to the west and north.

As a veteran of the Canada Expedition of 1690, James Bridges 3 joined Captain John Tyler and fifty-five other officers and soldiers of Captain Tyler's Company in petitioning the General Court of Massachusetts in 1736 for a township grant. All of these veterans had probably received "bills of credit" to pay for their services. In any case, they had been content to wait for more than two score years before urging their claim for further remuneration. The General Court confirmed the grant in 1736, when the petitioners must have been at least three score years of

age. James Bridges 3 was 65 years of age and nearing the close of his life.

On February 3, 1736, The General Court granted to "Captain John Tyler and fifty-six others" a township six miles square in a place called Rowley Canada. Several of the petitioners settled on this grant and then found that their land lay within the bounds of New Hampshire and that they had to make legal arrangements with the New Hampshire authorities if they would own their homesteads. The township was surveyed and allotments made to these servicemen in what is now the Town of Rindge, in Cheshire County, New Hampshire. Some of the petitioners paid the Granite State for their farms and established their homes in this frontier town, and in 1852, according to Marshall Cram, some of their descendants could still be found among the inhabitants. This is probably true today.

This situation was by no means an isolated instance, and it probably betokened no political chicanery or breach of faith on the part of the General Court of Massachusetts. This Province had in a spirit of paternalism exercised jurisdiction over New Hampshire as well as over Maine. In fact, for many years, the Granite State hardly knew the extent of its sovereignty or the location of its boundaries. After 1629, the eastern boundary was established at the Piscataqua River, and the State had no further argument with Maine. Westward, New Hampshire claimed jurisdiction over the area west of the Connecticut River, now the State of Vermont, but which was for many years called the "New Hampshire Grants". This jurisdiction was long contested by the State of New York, and was finally waived when Vermont became an independent colony. It was as late as 1932, however, that the United States Supreme Court decided that the Western boundary of New Hampshire had always been the Connecticut River.

The Southern boundary for more than a century was a cause for argument and discontent. Massachusetts had so long dominated the little Province of New Hampshire that her attitude toward the boundary question became undeniably arrogant. Massachusetts claimed more land

along her Northern border than now lies within her limits, and the disputed boundary was moved several times. At the time of the 1736 land grant, the Southern bounds of New Hampshire were several miles north of the present location, thus leaving the State only a few miles of seacoast. Hence, it came about that the Massachusetts General Court made grants of land for townships along this northern border all in good faith.

The issue was evidently raised in 1737, however, because Governor Belcher of Massachusetts with members of the Legislature and an imposing military escort made a spectacular visit to Hampton Falls in August of 1737, for a long conference with the New Hampshire Legislature. All the pomp and ceremony availed Massachusetts nothing. The representatives of the two States could come to no agreement. New Hampshire refused to be overawed and sent to King George II such a pathetic appeal for relief from the "vast, opulent and overgrown province of Massachusetts" that the heart of the King was touched, and he commanded the latter State to surrender a tract of land comprising twenty-eight towns which was added to the southern end of New Hampshire. One authority states that this decision was handed down and the transfer made in 1741, two years after James Bridges 3 passed away. Rowley Canada was one of the twenty-eight towns in the disputed area whose inhabitants had to make new terms with New Hampshire authorities to retain the title to their lands.

In the History of Waterford, the historian, Henry P. Warren, implied that the Massachusetts legislators exercised political acumen and foresight when they granted townships in the disputed territory in an apparent effort to strengthen Massachusetts' claim to that area. He said that Massachusetts granted thirty-seven townships in the disputed territory for military service in the various wars, and thirteen of these townships were granted for service in the Canada Expedition of 1690, eight of which lay in this border area. Two of the townships lay within the present limits of the Bay State: Dorchester Canada (Ash-

burnham) and Roxbury Canada (Warwick). Three of the townships were original grants in Maine: Raymond, Sudbury Canada (Bethel), and Phipps Canada (Jay). Three more Maine townships were subsequently granted in lieu of three of the other eight townships granted by the General Court in the disputed territory, and Bridgton seems to have been the oldest of the three. The eight were: Bow, Bakers-town (Salisbury), Beverly Canada (Dunbarton), Ipswich Canada (New Ipswich), Salem Canada (Lyndeborough), Rowley Canada (Rindge) (Second grant: Bridgton), Sylvester Canada (Richmond) (Second grant: Turner), Toddstown (Henniker) (Second grant: Waterford). The grantees of five of these towns awarded for service in the Expedition of 1690 seem to have accepted their lands without seeking compensatory grants. They purchased their farms from New Hampshire and thereafter paid taxes to that State.

When some of the veterans of Captain Tyler's Company found that their titles were not clear, they refused to accept their lands and remained unrequited. As far as we know, James Bridges 3 never visited the Rowley Canada grant, and we are sure that he did not settle there. His wife died the following September, in 1736, and he died in 1739 at the age of 68 years, with probably no suspicion that his land grant was worthless. He was one of the original petitioners, and his share seems to have been inherited by his only son, James Bridges 4, but because this son died in 1747 at the age of 52 years, he apparently gained nothing from the grant. Many of the other petitioners received no benefit, but for many years nothing seems to have been done about it. Apparently, some of the servicemen were satisfied to accept the situation as it was, and no leader appeared to champion the cause of the dissatisfied. Nearly three decades were to pass before any successful effort was made to secure a compensatory grant. Meanwhile the veterans of the 1690 Expedition passed away one by one.

The following data are available regarding the children of James and Sarah (Marston) Bridges:

1. Sarah, born February 25, 1694, evidently in Andover, married on July 6, 1715, in Newbury, Nathan Frye, who was an uncle of Colonel Joseph Frye to whom the Fryeburg township was granted in 1763 by the General Court of Massachusetts. She was still the wife of Nathan Frye in 1738, and he died March 19, 1758.
2. James, born February 16, 1695. (He is James Bridges 4)
3. Bertha (Bethiah, according to the Essex Antiquarian), born August 9, 1696, married (1) July 15, 1720, Philemon Dalton, (2) September 24, 1725, Samuel Morse, and died before 1738.
4. Hannah, married in April, 1728, Samuel Preston. Her father devised to her his buildings and land. (It is a matter of conjecture just what buildings and what land was willed to Hannah Bridges Preston, because James Bridges 4 seems to have taken over his father's business, and to have lived in his grandfather's house).

JAMES BRIDGES 4 (James 3, John 2, Edmund 1) was born February 16, 1695, in Andover, Massachusetts. He married (1) December 28, 1721, Eleanor Moody, who was the daughter of Caleb Moody of Newbury, and six children were born before her death on May 5, 1736. She was born October 17, 1700, and died at the early age of 35 years, but we may remember her as the mother of Moody Bridges. James Bridges 4 was left with a family of small children and after two years, on August 31, 1738, he married (2) Mary Abbott, who became the mother of three more of his children. He lived less than nine years after this marriage and died at the age of 52 on July 17, 1747. Old records are occasionally conflicting. His tombstone states that he died July 14, 1747, in the 51st year of his age, "being melted to death by extreme heat". Mary Abbott Bridges was born March 24, 1700, outlived her husband more than a quarter of a century, and died in 1774.

James Bridges 4 lived all his life in Andover, where the Bridges had established themselves as maltsters. He was evidently shrewd and industrious and became a prominent citizen, leaving at his death an estate which was inventoried at considerably over eleven hundred pounds, a small fortune for the time. He was considered as a wealthy man in his time, having several slaves and a malthouse, and he seems to have enlarged the Bridges property by acquiring more real estate. He achieved sufficient prominence to be elected Representative to the General Court in 1723.

In his short life of a little over half a century, James Bridges 4 lived during a dangerous period of American history. He was born during King William's War, which lasted from 1689 to 1697, closing with the Peace of Ryswick. His childhood and youth were passed amid the horrors of Queen Anne's War, which dragged along from 1702 to 1713 and ended with the Treaty of Utrecht. While James was a young man with a growing family in Andover, Captain Lovewell fought the famous and tragic Battle of Lovewell's Pond in 1725 in what is now the Town of Fryeburg, and he lived through the first three years of King George's War, 1744 to 1748, dying just before its close. No later extended period of American history was more eventful, but James Bridges 4 seems to have had no part in these conflicts. We find no record of his military service.

James Bridges 4 had reached middle age before his father and fifty-six other Veterans of 1690 united to ask for a grant of land, and he must have known the disappointment of these Veterans when they found the land held no value for them. He probably wondered why the General Court had not taken steps to correct its error, having no reason to suppose that the grant had not been made in good faith, but when his father's share in the grant had passed to him as the only male heir, he seems to have done nothing to improve the situation. He was well-to-do, living in peace and comfort, busily occupied in running a profitable business in a well-established community, and was not at all interested in claiming property

rights in a wilderness on a dangerous frontier. The frontier was indeed too unsettled and too dangerous to be a desirable place of residence, and it was possibly best that matters had turned out as they had. At the height of his prosperity, he passed away, leaving his business to his oldest son, a young man of 24 years.

Children of James 4 and Eleanor (Moody) Bridges:

1. (5) Moody, born January 19, 1723, in Andover.
2. Mary, born October 29, 1724, married May 31, 1750, John Fish of Andover.
3. Abigail, born December 12, 1726, married November 23, 1749, Jacob Tyler, and was living in 1791.
4. James, born June 2, 1729, married September 4, 1755, Mary Twitchell. He was probably the James Bridges who bought and sold land in Bridgton.
5. Eleanor, born February 26, 1731, married April 17, 1755, Moses Tyler.
6. Sarah, born March 4, 1733, died October 1, 1738.

Children of James 4 and Mary (Abbott) Bridges:

7. Sarah, born December 21, 1739, lived in Andover and died there unmarried. Her will was dated May 18, 1791, and was proved June 7, 1791.
8. John, born September 5, 1741.
9. Chloe, born December 28, 1743, married March 13, 1765, Timothy Osgood, Junior, of Andover, and was living in 1791.

MOODY BRIDGES 5 (James 4, James 3, John 2, Edmund 1) was born in Andover on January 19, 1723, the oldest child of James 4 and Eleanor (Moody) Bridges. The data are conflicting, as the following record shows. He married twice and had a family of at least thirteen children. On November 5, 1747, only a few months after the death of his father, he married (1) Naomi Frye (called Naamah on the tombstone), daughter of Isaac Frye of Andover, and she was probably the mother of all his children. Naomi Frye was a niece of Colonel Joseph Frye. who settled Fryeburg. She died November 12, 1779, at the age of 53 years, and Moody Bridges married (2) a widow,

Mary (Gardner) Foster, on May 28, 1787. She seems to have outlived him by more than seventeen years, dying his widow on November 8, 1818, at the age of 85 years.

Moody Bridges lived in that part of old Andover now known as North Andover, in the house built by his great-grandfather, John Bridges. A reference in Volume 38, page 120, of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register asserts that "Colonel Moody Bridges of Andover was 73 years, 7 months, and 12 days old when he died", but the date of his death is not given here. A reference in Volume 12 of the Essex Antiquarian states that he was born in 1723 and that he died July 14, 1801, at the age of 78 years. In the Norman Libby manuscripts, there is a note that Moody Bridges died in 1801. Let us assume, therefore, that he was born January 19, 1723, and that he died July 14, 1801, having lived to be nearly fourscore years of age. The cemetery inscriptions agree with these dates.

The early years of Moody Bridges' life were passed at a time when the area around Andover was becoming comparatively free from the turmoil of wars and frontier fighting. He grew up as the son and heir of respected and wealthy citizens of the community, and he received as good an education as the time afforded. He enlisted early in the Massachusetts militia and rose rapidly in rank because of his outstanding ability, and we may conclude that his social standing was no bar to his promotion. At the age of twenty-four, after his father's early death, he assumed the management of his father's business. He married and established his own home. With the prestige and wealth of the Bridges family, he became a man of wide influence in civil life. As a man of leisure and respectability, he became friends with men of prominence in and around Andover and with men high in the counsels of the Province. He found time during his early life to serve in several military campaigns, became Adjutant to Colonel James Frye, and was listed as Adjutant-Colonel in the regiment commanded by Colonel Joseph Frye, his uncle by marriage. He was known as an ardent patriot, a stir-

ring speaker, and as one of the foremost members of the various committees raised from time to time to promote the general welfare.

Such is the caliber of the man who seems to have aroused the descendants and heirs of the Veterans of Captain Tyler's Company to exert their joint efforts to secure a compensatory grant of land. He had been but a schoolboy of thirteen when the first grant was made in 1736, and he knew the disappointment in 1741 when the news of the King's decision reached his family and they realized that their grants were invalid. At the age of 24 years, he was one of the heirs of his grandfather's interest in the first grant. How soon he found time in his busy life to attempt to right the wrong, we shall never know, but we do know that before he was twoscore years of age, he had done something about it. We may credit to his initiative and his intelligence the decision to apply for a second grant, and we may assume that his energy and perseverance were largely responsible for rounding up the heirs of the Veterans of his grandfather's military company and inducing them to unite in making application for such a grant. This, however, is a long story.

In attempting to list the children of Moody Bridges, we encounter confusing and contradictory data. The New England Historical and Genealogical Register lists thirteen children, and we list them here.

Children of Moody and Naomi (Frye) Bridges:

1. Naomi, born September 7, 1748, married Jedediah Jewett (Sweet) of Pittston, Maine, was living in 1800.
2. Sarah, born June 14, 1750, died February 16, 1754.
3. James, born November 4, 1751, died November 23, 1789, leaving two children.
4. Isaac, born February 3, 1753, and believed to be the Isaac Bridges who settled at Penobscot, according to Little's Genealogy of Maine Families.
5. Sarah, born about 1754, married October 6, 1778, in Andover, John Dean of Exeter, New Hampshire, died at Readfield, March 6, 1809.

6. Abigail, born September 25, 1756, married October 21, 1779, Andrew Newall, of Boston.
7. Eleanor, or Nelly, born October 8, 1758, married February 12, 1793, Colonel James Varnum of Dracut, died February 22, 1801.
8. Susannah, born May 3, 1760, married Samuel Barker before 1800.
9. Enoch, born August 23, 1762, died June 7, 1764.
10. Hannah, born September 17, 1764, married—Hall, died 1843.
11. Martha, born April 30, 1767, died young.
12. Dorcas, born May 23, 1769, married James Tyler, died August 26, 1839.
13. Ruby, born April 30, 1771, married James Jewett of Portland.

In Bailey's Historical Sketches of Andover we find a reference to the sale of the mansion of Moody Bridges by a son, Henry G. The other authorities do not list Henry G. as a son, but he might be a grandson.

Mr. Edmund Leland, who owned the Bridges "mansion", prepared a manuscript description of the house and a sketch of the Bridges family which confirms the sale of the Bridges property by Henry G. Bridges to Isaac Stevens, the father of the Civil War General, Isaac I. Stevens, who was killed September 1, 1862, at the Battle of Chantilly. Mr. Leland also adds that Moody Bridges had a son Moody, who was for nearly fifty years Deputy Sheriff of the County, and cut "quite a figure at all trainings and musters, cattleshows or fairs." Of this son we have no other record. This second Moody Bridges is said to have had nine daughters who married widowers, and who in 1794 bestowed upon him three "table pitchers," which are still in existence. This manuscript contains other material definitely apocryphal, and the data lack confirmatory proof. It is said that there are no Bridges left in North Andover.

On the basis of all available evidence, it seems that no one of Moody Bridges' children ever came to Bridgton to live, and there is, therefore, no necessity of tracing the family further in order to study the career of Moody Bridges.

The Frye Influence

From our study of the Bridges ancestry and the vital statistics of his family, we find at least two connections by marriage between the Bridges and the Frye families in Andover. These connections may be unimportant to us except as they enable us to understand the influence of Joseph Frye upon the career of Moody Bridges and his influence upon the beginnings of the Town of Bridgton. We sketch the Frye ancestry briefly and the career of Joseph Frye more in detail.

JOHN FRYE 1 emigrated from Basing, Hants, in England, sailing from Southhampton for New England in May, 1633, in the Bevis of Hampton, Robert Batten, Master. One account lists Robert Eaton as Master. John Frye settled in Newbury and later moved to Andover. He was living there in 1645, and died there November 9, 1693, at the age of 92 years and seven months. His wife, Ann, died in Andover, October 22, 1680. This couple seems to have had seven children. John Frye 1 was contemporary with Edmund Bridges 1, and we are interested in the third child, Samuel Frye.

SAMUEL FRYE 2 (John 1) was born in Andover, and he lived and died there May 9, 1725. He married on November 20, 1671, Mary, the daughter of John Aslett (or Asledee). She was born April 24, 1654, and died August 12, 1747, surviving her husband 22 years. One account states that Samuel Frye had ten children. His seventh child, Nathan, born June 15, 1688, married Sarah Bridges, the oldest child of James Bridges 3, thus establishing the first connection by marriage between the Bridges and the Frye families in America. Samuel Frye 2 was contemporary with John Bridges 2 and James Bridges 3. We follow the career of his oldest child, John.

JOHN FRYE 3 (Samuel 2, John 1) was born in Andover, September 16, 1672, and he died April 7, 1737, in the 65th year of his age. He married November 1, 1694, Tabitha, the daughter of John Farnum. She died May 17, 1755, in her 75th year. Little's Genealogy lists the children of John Frye 3 as: John (died young), Isaac, Joshua, Abiel, Mehitable, Anna (died young), **Joseph,** Samuel, Anne, John, Tabitha, Hannah. Another account lists thirteen children, which could include a child born before Joseph. John Frye 3 was contemporary with James Bridges 3 and James Bridges 4, and Joseph Frye 4 was contemporary with Moody Bridges, although eleven years his senior. Moody Bridges married Naomi Frye, a daughter of Isaac Frye, Joseph's oldest living brother, and this established a second important connection by marriage between the two families. We are interested in the career of John Frye's seventh child, Joseph, who became the best known member of his family in his day and generation.

JOSEPH FRYE 4 (John 3, Samuel 2, John 1) was born in Andover, March 19, 1712. One account says 1711. He married on March 20, 1739, Mehitable Poor, one of whose brothers was Thomas Poor, who came to Bridgton as a member of the Committee in charge of the surveying party in 1766. Joseph Frye had eleven children, several of whom died in infancy. They are listed as: Joseph (died young), Samuel, Mehitable (died young), Mehitable (died young), Mehitable, Joseph, Tabitha, Hannah, Richard, Nathan, and Samuel. The most reliable and comprehensive data regarding these children can be found in a manuscript now in the Fryeburg Public Library, which was written in 1873 by Isaac Frye, Samuel Frye's son and Joseph Frye's grandson. The best biographical material regarding Joseph Frye can be found in the Historical Sketch of Fryeburg, Maine, by John Stuart Barrows, published in 1938.

Considerable biographical material is available concerning William Pierce Frye, born in Lewiston, Maine, in

1831, who served several terms as Representative in Congress and then several terms as Senator from Maine. He was General Joseph Frye's great-great-grandson.

Joseph Frye was a man of exceptional ability, and he had a good education for the times in which he lived. One account states that he attended Harvard College two years, but Harvard has no record of his attendance there. He was well trained as a surveyor, and he received the sort of education for his day which would be similar to the training of a civil engineer in modern times. He was an Ensign in the Company commanded by Lieutenant Caleb Swan, a Harvard graduate who married Frye's sister and later settled in Fryeburg. Joseph Frye achieved promotion rapidly and was a Major in General Winslow's force which was sent by the English to reduce Acadia and dispossess her citizens, and there he had one of the disagreeable assignments of his military career. His task was to remove the Acadians from their homes and to burn 250 of their houses. He was a Colonel in the French and Indian War, and had at one time the command of some 1800 Massachusetts troops. He was appointed a Brigadier-General as of June 21, 1775, and was soon after appointed a Major-General. During the intervals when he was at home in Andover, he held various civil offices. He was a justice of the peace in 1765. He seems to have been out of the military service for several years prior to the Revolutionary War, but he was at the Battle of Bunker Hill and served in the American Army at Cambridge. As Captain Joseph Frye, he was Representative from Andover to the General Court in 1750, 1751, 1752 and 1753, and as Major Joseph Frye he served in the General Court in 1754. He served also in 1762, but as Joseph Frye, Esquire. The familiarity with legislative procedure enabled him to prepare and to present to the General Court a large number of memorials and petitions to secure recompense for himself and for his soldiers. He sometimes appeared in person in the Legislature to urge his pleas, and it is written that there were enough of these petitions to "make quite a thick pamphlet".

Joseph Frye was always solicitous for the welfare of his soldiers, and his descendants still treasure a tankard given him by his men after the expedition to Acadia, in token of their appreciation of this solicitude. The silver tankard is incribed:

> "To Joseph Frye, Esq., Colonel and Commander-in-Chief of the forces in the service of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, and late Major of the second Battalion of General Shirley's Provincial Regiment," by the officers of that battalion April 2, 1757. This tribute was offered because of "his care and conduct of the Troops under his command at Nova Scotia and a proper appreciation of his Paternal Regard for them since their return to New England".

While Joseph Frye was presenting petitions for his soldiers, he found time to present some petitions on his own behalf. These activities had a direct bearing on the early history of Bridgton, and for a better understanding of these events, it is necessary to review a few important facts of Colonial history with particular emphasis on the campaign of 1757.

We may remember that in 1754, George Washington was sent to deal with the French and Indians of the Ohio Valley. His efforts at conciliation were unsuccessful, and he had to retreat southward toward Virginia. At a place called Great Meadows, he built Fort Necessity. Here he was attacked by the French and Indians, and after nine hours of fighting against hopeless odds, he surrendered, and the English lost all control of the Valley of the Ohio River. In 1755, the English sent an army under General Braddock to attack Fort Duquesne at the junction of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, where Pittsburg now stands, and this expedition was disastrously defeated by a smaller force of the French and Indians. This left the French in full control of the entire western frontier.

Elated by this success of the French forces, Baron Dieskau hurled his force of French and Indians against an English force under General William Johnson in a memorable battle at the head of Lake George in the Val-

ley of Lake Champlain in New York. The French were defeated, and the French offensive was paralyzed. Unfortunately, this victory was the only considerable success won by the English in the skirmish preceding the actual declaration of war in 1756, which marked the beginning of the French and Indian War, known as the Seven Years' War.

The French were determined to make a supreme effort to gain control over the Atlantic seaboard, which had become comparatively prosperous, and they sent to America in 1756 one of their ablest commanders, the Marquis de Montcalm, to achieve this end. Montcalm lost no time in capturing Oswego on the shore of Lake Ontario, the base from which the English were planning to attack Canada by way of Niagara. He captured 1400 prisoners and an immense quantity of stores, and then moved eastward to Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain, which he captured and fortified. From this stronghold he moved southward up Lake Champlain and up Lake George to attack the defenses at the head of that Lake.

The English were alarmed by this threat of French invasion, and both British and Colonial forces were concentrated to thwart the effort. A proper disposition of the troops available should have made this region impregnable, but the incompetency of the British leadership lost the campaign and made possible an inexcusable atrocity.

When General William Johnson, commander of the English troops, moved northward in 1755 up to the Hudson River Valley, he built Fort Edward on the Hudson River as a base of operations. Then he marched his forces to the head of Lake George, fourteen miles away, and erected another fort which he named Fort George. This was the fortification he defended so successfully against the French under Dieskau, and it was on this site that Fort William Henry was soon afterward erected.

There should have been sufficient warning of the French advance and ample time to make adequate preparations to halt their progress. By midsummer in 1757, both forts were garrisoned, but historians differ in their estimates of the size of these forces. Fort William

Henry was defended by a force variously estimated from 500 to 2200 troops under Colonel Munro, or Monro, and General Webb's troops at Fort Edward are variously estimated as high at 4000 to 5000 men. Bailey, in his Historical Sketches of Andover, states that in 1757, Moody Bridges was in command of a body of Colonial troops known as Colonel John Osgood's Regiment of 240 men, which he marched to Fort William Henry as reinforcements prior to the advance of Montcalm. At that time, Colonel Frye's regiment was intrenched outside the fort, and the army thus assembled was awaiting reinforcements and orders to march northward to Crown Point. The reinforcements and marching orders never came. The army seems to have been idling away the summer when the French advanced on the fort.

In spite of the proximity of the French forces, there seems to have been no apprehension during the month of July of an immediate attack. Montcalm moved his army up Lake George so quietly and so swiftly that his investment of Fort William Henry on August 2nd seems to have surprised the English commanders. Nevertheless, the garrison made a heroic defense. On August 4, 1757, after two days of bombardment, Montcalm demanded the surrender of the fort, but Colonel Munro was a brave officer and replied that he would surrender "only at the last extremity ". He made his desperate situation known to General Webb at Fort Edward, but no help came. It was not until the 9th of August, with half his cannon burst, his ammunition spent, and all hope of relief gone, that he sent a flag of truce. In the face of a vastly superior force, he had no choice but surrender. It is reported that Colonel Frye begged permission for his regiment to cut its way out, but Colonel Munro knew the futility of such a venture and forbade it. Montcalm agreed that the garrison of Fort William Henry would be permitted to march out with all the honors of war, and his terms were accepted. The story of that surrender is not good reading in either France or America.

After the English had laid down their arms and were well out of the fort, the Indians set upon them and began a brutal slaughter of men, women, and children. History records that while Montcalm did not sanction this treachery, he did not prevent it. He is said to have dashed about frantically demanding the Indians to cease the slaughter, but he did not command the French troops, who outnumbered the Indians two to one, to use the persuasive power of French bayonets or bullets to end the massacre. A few of the English escaped and were able to get to Fort Edward. Colonel Frye was one of that number. We have no evidence that Moody Bridges was present when the attack came, and it is doubtful if he was at the surrender. However, the event was important to both men.

Colonel Frye was indeed fortunate to escape with his life on that day, and his story is best told in an old account quoted by Abiel Abbott in his History of Andover, published in 1829. The French officer, La Corne, mentioned in this report, had been a Commandant in Nova Scotia when the British removed the Acadians, and he was known as an honorable and redoubtable officer.

"La Corne, who had a great influence among the savages, sent for Colonel Frye, commanding the Massachusetts regiment, and informed him that he well remembered the humanity he had shown to his countrymen in Nova Scotia, that he would embrace the present opportunity to express his gratitude, and reward his humanity; and that neither he nor any of the Massachusetts troops, should receive insult or injury from the Indians. But during the whole transaction, he kept at a distance, nor did he send a party to afford the desired protection, nor use his influence to moderate the vengeance of the Indians.

"In the confusion consequent on the attack upon the defenseless troops, an Indian chief seized Colonel Frye, plundered and stripped him of his clothes, even to his shirt, and then led him into the woods, in a direction and manner which left no doubt as to the design of the ferocious chief. Arriving at a secluded spot, where the Colonel expected to meet his fate, he determined to make one

strenuous effort for his life, and roused by desperation, with no other arms than nature gave him, he sprang upon the savage, overpowered and killed him on the spot, and fleeing rapidly into the thick wood, he eluded the search of the Indians. After wandering in various directions for several days, subsisting wholly on whortleberries, he reached Fort Edward and joined his suffering companions."

Although Colonel Frye was to return to military service and serve both the English King and the Continental Congress before his retirement, this tragic incident was perhaps the climax of his career. He was forty-five years of age in 1757 and fit for active duty, and while he retained thereafter his military connections, he seems to have lived the succeeding years in Andover. He was commander of the forces of Massachusetts Bay at the seige and capture of Louisburgh in 1758, according to the inscription on his monument in Fryeburg, but after the massacre at Fort William Henry, he was able to devote considerable time to his own interests. He had a family of six living children, and one more child was to be born in 1758.

Colonel Frye hoped for military promotion during these years, and he had reason to expect it when the outbreak of the Revolutionary War created the great demand for general officers. Still no promotion came; although men without military experience had been made Major Generals. The Fryeburg historian, John Stuart Barrows, says that Colonel Frye felt slighted because he had been overslaughed. He served at the Battle of Bunker Hill apparently as a Colonel, but he was appointed a Brigadier General a few days later. The situation became tense as the army gathered in Cambridge. He did not approve of General Washington's policies and found service under him so difficult that he tendered his resignation, but apparently not before he received his commission as a Major General. He had waited a score of years for this belated promotion, and his military career was soon to terminate.

It was during these years that Colonel Frye made a decision which so changed his way of life that his activities are of interest to us in our study of the beginnings of Bridgton. He had lived a hard and exciting life, encountering hardships and dangers, and he sought a home where he could live in peace and quietness. He had traveled widely and observed intelligently. He seems to have acquired a fondness for wilderness life, and before his military career ended, he decided to seek a home on the Maine frontier.

We find no reference to further military service by Moody Bridges with either the English or American troops after the tragedy at Fort William Henry, and we conclude that he returned to civil life and to family life in Andover. His family at that time probably included five living children. He had a prosperous business that must have demanded his attention some of the time. It is quite likely that Moody Bridges and his uncle by marriage, Colonel Joseph Frye, found time during these months to discuss together their military experiences and other matters of mutual interest. It is no idle assumption that Joseph Frye and Moody Bridges were in close touch with each other. As we read the ancient records of Colonial Andover and of early Bridgton, one thing becomes apparent, and that is that in Andover a sizable and congenial group of inhabitants were in close touch with each other. The men of Andover had many kindred interests, shared many thrilling adventures, and joined their labors and their fortunes in various enterprises. There was a great deal of intermarriage among the prominent families of Andover, and it was among these friends and relatives that the idea of a frontier township germinated and flourished. Many of these men were actively and, perhaps, profitably interested in the project of securing a compensatory township grant for the veterans of Captain Tyler's Company of 1690, a matter which came to absorb so much of Moody Bridges' time.

The Township Grants

In his Address, delivered January 8, 1852, Marshall Cram sketched the story of the first petition of the Veterans of 1690 enrolled in Captain John Tyler's Company, which gave those petitioners very little compensation for their services, and he added:

"To remedy this defect, in the year 1761, on the petition of Benjamin Mullikin, Moody Bridges, and Thomas Perley, agents for the proprietors, the Legislature of Massachusetts passed a Resolve, granting to the legal representatives or assigns of the original grantees, in lieu of a tract called Rowley Canada, a township of the contents of seven miles square, in the unappropriated land belonging to the Province of Massachusetts: Provided that the grantees locate the said township to the eastward of Saco River, adjoining some other tract already located; and return a plan thereof into the secretary's office, within twelve months, for confirmation; . . ."

With characteristic brevity, he sketched the succeeding events as follows:

"Pursuant to this grant, Messrs. Mullikin, Bridges and Perley proceeded to lay out a township on the easterly side of the Saco River, adjoining Col. Joseph Frye's township, then called Pickwockett, now the town of Fryeburg; extending nine miles in length, by six and a half miles in width; containing fifty-eight and a half square miles, or 37,440 acres; and presenting a plan of the same to the Legislature, they obtained a confirmation thereof, on the 25th day of June, 1765. . ."

These transactions were matters of record, and Marshall Cram reported them as pertinent historical facts, without attempting to explain or to reconcile discrepancies. He did not refer to the fact that four years elapsed, instead of the one required by the General Court, before the plan was submitted for approval. He did not

refer to the change in the shape of the proposed township, from square to rectangular, and he did not refer to the fact that Colonel Frye's township was mentioned in 1765, but not in 1761. If Marshall Cram understood the significance of these matters, he did not deem them of sufficient importance to deserve an explanation. To us, however, in our study of the beginnings of Bridgton, they have a special interest. Many things happened during the four years that elapsed from the date of the petition in 1761 to the date of the final grant in 1765. In Barrow's Historical Sketch of Fryeburg, we find that under date of November 11, 1761, Joseph Frye addressed the General Court in a tactfully worded petition, which read in part as follows:

". . . your Petitioner having been informed if your Excellency & Honours should see cause to dispose of any of the wilderness lands belonging to this province it was probable it would be by sale, takes leave to inform you that between the uppermost settlement on the Saco river in the County of York, and the mountains above Pigwacket there are sundry tracts of land not yet disposed of which (in the opinion of your petitioner) would make good settlements for husbandmen, & as a settlement pretty well advanced up the said river would naturally bring the rest of said lands into the esteem of such men & consequently render them more valuable to the Government. He humbly offers to bring forward the same & if your Excellency & Honours see fit to approve the offer of your Petitioner He humbly prays you will please to grant him liberty to purchase a tract of land sufficient for a Township in some place between a river running into Saco river, called Great Ossipee & the Mountains above mentioned, with liberty to make his pitch within said limits & to return to your Excellency & Honours a draft of the same in such a term of time as you shall think proper to order him, . . ."

Colonel Frye then urges his long military career and especially his hardships at the surrender of Fort William Henry in his plea for easy terms, which it seems were

granted him, for he had to pay the Province only one hundred pounds of "lawful money", and the other terms were reasonable.

Colonel Frye's original petition was granted as of March 3, 1762, with the provision that a plan of the tract desired be submitted for confirmation. This seems to have been done promptly in sufficient detail, and on February 24, 1763, the Massachusetts Legislature confirmed a grant of land six miles square on the Pequawket intervale where Joseph Frye "made his pitch".

These events happened nearly two centuries ago, but we can piece together the fragments of information that have come down through the years to enable us to understand how the men of Andover worked together to attain their objectives. Some of us have wondered how Bridgton came to be located where it is today, and why and how it received its name. The answer seems to lie with the men of Andover, and particularly in the close association between Joseph Frye and Moody Bridges. A careful study of the facts now available seems to indicate that if Joseph Frye had not chosen Pequawket as the location of his township, Bridgton would not have been located where it is today, and there might, indeed, have been no town named Bridgton. It is interesting to attempt to trace the events of those early days.

The members of Captain Tyler's Company in the Canada Expedition of 1690 had waited more than two score years before they secured their first grant of Rowley Canada, and we may well wonder why they, or their heirs or assigns, still waited another quarter of a century before asking the General Court for a replacement grant. The delay was probably due to lack of leadership, but it was partly due to apathy resulting from the fact that some of the grantees accepted the situation philosophically and paid the Province of New Hampshire for their lands in Rowley Canada. They were, however, taxed for this land, and this tax burden became an annoyance to many, especially to those who chose not to settle on their

lots and were unable to sell the land. We may well believe that the grantees were unwilling to make the effort to find a desirable compensatory grant, and that they were hesitant to undertake the task of petitioning the Legislature. They needed some one wise enough and energetic enough to co-ordinate their efforts and to set the machinery in motion, some one who knew his way around in the General Court and had influence with the legislators. They needed a leader who would find "the promised land" and lead them to it.

Finding "the promised land" was no longer an easy task. The possibility of locating another township in the wild lands of Massachusetts was becoming more and more remote. The Province of Maine had many square miles of uninhabited wilderness, but comparatively little was known of its geographical features. To be sure, tiers of towns farther and farther back from the coast were being settled, such as Windham in 1737, New Gloucester in 1743, and Gray and Standish in 1750, but beyond these lay the unbroken forest with its lakes and streams and wild life and occasional Indians. Very little was known of this vast area, except for the Valley of the Saco River.

Since the days of Darby Field in 1642, many travelers had told thrilling stories of the mountains far to the northward toward Canada, and of the approach to those mountains up the Valley of the winding Saco. The men of Andover had heard those tales. Perhaps several of their number had wended their way up the Valley in search of the lush meadows and fertile intervales of which the travelers had spoken. Residents of Gorham had pastured their cattle on the intervales of the Upper Saco, and Lieutenant Hugh Stirling of the British Army, accompanied by his brother-in-law, William Stark, had come from Manchester, N. H., to the Pequawket area in 1758 and felled the trees on several acres of land. No white man had lived there during the winter season, but Hugh Sterling returned in 1759 with his wife and children, built a cabin, and raised good crops. He made Pequawket his home. It was about this

time that Joseph Frye journeyed to this region and in the company of Captain William Stark, explored the valley thoroughly. From one of the highest hills, now known as Stark's Hill, they viewed the land with practiced eyes and Colonel Frye pronounced it good. With far-sighted shrewdness, he located the most extensive and most desirable portion of the Upper Saco Valley, and sooner or later made his decision that this was the site he would choose for his future home. Back in Andover, he undoubtedly related his experience to his friends and neighbors, one of whom was Moody Bridges.

We do not know what influenced Joseph Frye to make this trip to Pequawket. It may have been one of many such trips that he made to the wilderness of Maine. Its results, however, are of vital interest to us, because it enabled Joseph Frye to determine just where he would "make his pitch", and the location he chose for his settlement was to determine the location of the town that was to be named for Moody Bridges.

The story related by Joseph Frye back in Andover may have aroused long dormant ambitions in the minds of some of the "legal representatives and assigns" of the Veterans of Captain Tyler's Company, and it may have aroused Moody Bridges to action. It is conjectural, but highly probable, that Moody Bridges was the one member of that group who spurred the others to unite their efforts in a petition for a new grant. He was certainly the one who had the ability, the energy, and the enthusiasm, and he was probably the one who had the vision to see the possibilities of a new township that would have all the advantages which Rowley Canada lacked. Moreover, his Uncle Joseph Frye could be of help. He could give them expert advice on framing the new petition, and he was well known in the Legislature. Furthermore, they might frame their petition so adroitly that it would help Uncle Joseph's chances of securing a Pequawket location. After those many years perhaps the wrong perpetrated in 1736 could be righted. Even though nearly all of the 1690 Veterans had been gathered to their fathers, perhaps their

heirs and assigns might win a just reward. The way seemed clear, and now the machinery could be set in motion.

As many as could be found of the "legal representatives or assigns of the original grantees" were contacted, and concerted action was obtained to have a Committee legally and duly appointed to represent the group in their efforts to obtain a new grant. The group so collected would comprise the proprietors of the new township, and of this group three prominent members were selected to serve on this Committee, namely, Benjamin Mullikin, Jr., Moody Bridges, and Thomas Perley.

As Marshall Cram gave the roster of Captain John Tyler's Company, the first name after that of Captain Tyler was Benjamin Mullikin, and the second name was James Bridges. The name of Perley does not appear at all. The original Benjamin Mullikin would have been nearly ninety years of age by 1761, and was probably no longer living. Benjamin Mullikin, Jr., was very likely his son, a man well along in years. He was presumably a man of wealth and of wide political influence. We have found his name on petitions for towns in the region of the Penobscot River, and he seems to have had the petitioning habit and to have known his way around in the General Court. With all these qualifications, he floated to the top and became the first-named member, or Chairman, of the Committee. His business ability may have served the Committee well in their deliberations, but as far as we know, he never set foot on Bridgton soil, and perhaps there was never any inclination on the part of the proprietors to name their new township Mullikin-town, or Mullikinton.

Thomas Perley was evidently an heir of some one of the original grantees or the owner of large land holdings in the tract called Rowley Canada. He was obviously a man of prominence or a large property holder to win third place on the Committee. He lived in Boxford, Massachusetts, and may never have visited Bridgton, but he bought and sold many lots of Bridgton land. Thomas Per-

ley was a great-grandson of Allen Perley, the immigrant ancestor of the Perleys in America. He was born in East Boxford on February 22, 1705, and died September 28. 1795, in his 91st year. He married Emma Putnam, who was born on April 13, 1710, and died on February 2, 1787 at the age of nearly 77 years. She was an older sister of Major General Israel Putnam. Eight children of this couple are listed, some of whom are buried in Harmony Cemetery in East Boxford, together with their parents. Thomas Perley was a man of "acknowledged integrity and solid virtue". He held many offices of trust and lived a life of public service. We do not know what important work he did on the Committee, but it is on record that he later gave the sum of $645 to the Fund for the Support of Preaching in South Bridgton, where his son Enoch had settled.

Enoch Perley was born on May 19, 1749, and was to come to Bridgton in 1776 at the age of 27 years, more or less as a representative of his father. He settled in South Bridgton on the farm now owned by John Gyger, cleared the land, and built his cabin. He was a shrewd and successful farmer, and he became prominent in the affairs of the new settlement. He was the Moderator of the first town meeting held in 1794, and he held other offices of trust. In the early days of the settlement in Bridgton, the proprietors' records were kept in Andover, with Moody Bridges as Proprietors' Clerk, but in 1777 the records were moved to Bridgton, and Enoch Perley became the Clerk. Unfortunately for historians interested in that early period, the records burned when Enoch Perley's house was burned on the night of October 2, 1780, but he still continued as the Proprietors' Clerk until 1806, when the proprietors had disposed of all the property they held "in their corporate capacity" and they no longer functioned as "proprietors". Enoch's older brother, Thomas Perley, was also active in the interests of the new township, and it could well be that the memory of the Thomas Perley who served on the Proprietors' Committee in 1761 should be revered less for his own services to Bridgton than for those rendered by his sons.

Of this Mullikin-Bridges-Perley committee, Moody Bridges was undoubtedly the youngest, the most energetic, and perhaps the ablest member, but he had highly capable support in the work he was to do. We may suppose that Benjamin Mullikin helped in drafting the petitions, but we may be fairly sure that this was done also in consultation with Joseph Frye.

The first petition formulated by this Committee was probably drawn as early as 1760, possibly in the early months of 1761. There was at that time no settlement in the Saco River Valley north of Standish, but Joseph Frye had explored the Pequawket region and made his decision to ask the General Court for a township in that part of the Valley. He was dreaming of retirement, and now Moody Bridges and his Committee could help make this dream come true. Accordingly, the first petition of the Committee asked for a grant of land,

"Provided, that the grantee locate the said township to the eastward of the Saco River, **adjoining some other tract already located."**

The Legislature granted preliminary approval of this request, but stipulated that a plan of the territory desired must be submitted to the "secretary's office, within twelve months, for confirmation".

Many things must be accomplished, however, before this plan could be submitted, but the machinery was in motion and the events of the next four years would lead progressively to the desired consummation. Joseph Frye presented to the General Court his shrewdly worded petition on November 11, 1761, reminding the legislators that there were several desirable tracts of land in the Upper Saco Valley, suggesting that a settlement located well toward the mountains would attract other settlers and render the adjoining lands more valuable to the government, and requesting permission to purchase at reasonable terms a tract somewhere within the specified area. Within four months, the legislators took action on

Frye's petition and granted a tract six miles square as he requested. Joseph Frye was a member of the General Court in 1762, and this may have served to facilitate legislative procedure in his interests. Within another year, he had submitted his preliminary survey and obtained a confirmation of the grant. He had won his home in the wilderness, and he was very busy in the spring of 1763 interesting and selecting families to make their homes on his land. Within three months from the date the grant was confirmed, Colonel Frye is said to have given out fifty deeds of land in his township to prospective settlers, each of whom was to pay him twenty pounds sterling. The first settlers began to arrive in 1763, and the settlement grew steadily. As we might expect, many of these early arrivals came from Andover and many more from the surrounding towns. They were former neighbors and acquaintances of Joseph Frye and Moody Bridges.

Joseph Frye was not done with military service, as we have seen, for he was to serve at Bunker Hill and to command troops gathered in Falmouth (Portland) in 1776 to meet the threat of a second British attack, but he was to build his home in Pequawket in 1768 and after 1775 cease to be a resident of Andover. He was to continue to lead a busy life, living in baronial style in his house on a Fryeburg hill. Apparently he continued his surveying occupation, and history records that he spent the summer of 1774, associated with Jabez Brown of Stow, Massachusetts, directing the surveying party which laid out the Township of Waterford in ranges and lots. He devoted a great deal of time to the interests of the settlement he had established. He was permitted to spend many more peaceful and happy years surrounded by his family and friends, and we may surmise that he kept in touch with the men of Andover with whom he had worked for the good of all. He died July 25, 1794, and is buried in the cemetery in Fryeburg Village.

Just what Moody Bridges and the Committee of the proprietors were doing while Colonel Frye was securing

his township is not on record, but they had many decisions to make. The plan of the tract they were to select was due in the secretary's office of the General Court some time in 1762, but the plan could not be drawn until they could decide where they wanted to locate their township. Presumably acting on the advice of Joseph Frye, they had asked for a tract of land to the eastward of the Saco River and adjoining some other tract already located. When their petition had been presented in 1761, there was no such township laid out in the upper part of the valley of the Saco River, but now that Colonel Frye had meted his bounds, the problem should be readily solved. They had asked for a township seven miles square adjoining a mythical township, and now they had to make sure that this was what they really wanted.

Joseph Frye came to Pequawket in 1762 with a surveying party, and he laid out his township nearly seven miles square, with side lines running northeast to southwest and northwest to southeast, at a forty-five degree angle to the meridian line. This particular arrangement of boundaries gave him the fertile intervales he desired and avoided the mountains. His southeast boundary paralleled the west side of the mountain we now know as Pleasant Mountain, and it extended northeast to the southwest corner of the present Town of Sweden, leaving his east corner projecting boldly into the unexplored wilderness to the eastward of the Saco. This posed a real problem for the Mullikin - Bridges - Perley Committee.

Another township lying alongside his grant to the eastward would include the Pleasant Mountain area and be largely uninhabitable, or it would lie in the hill country of Sweden and Lovell. However, a township could be laid out to corner on his east corner and swing to the eastward in an area of gentle wooded hills which was studded with ponds, a section of the wilderness which had already received the name of Pondicherry. Such a grant would still be "to the eastward of the Saco River, adjoining some other tract already located".

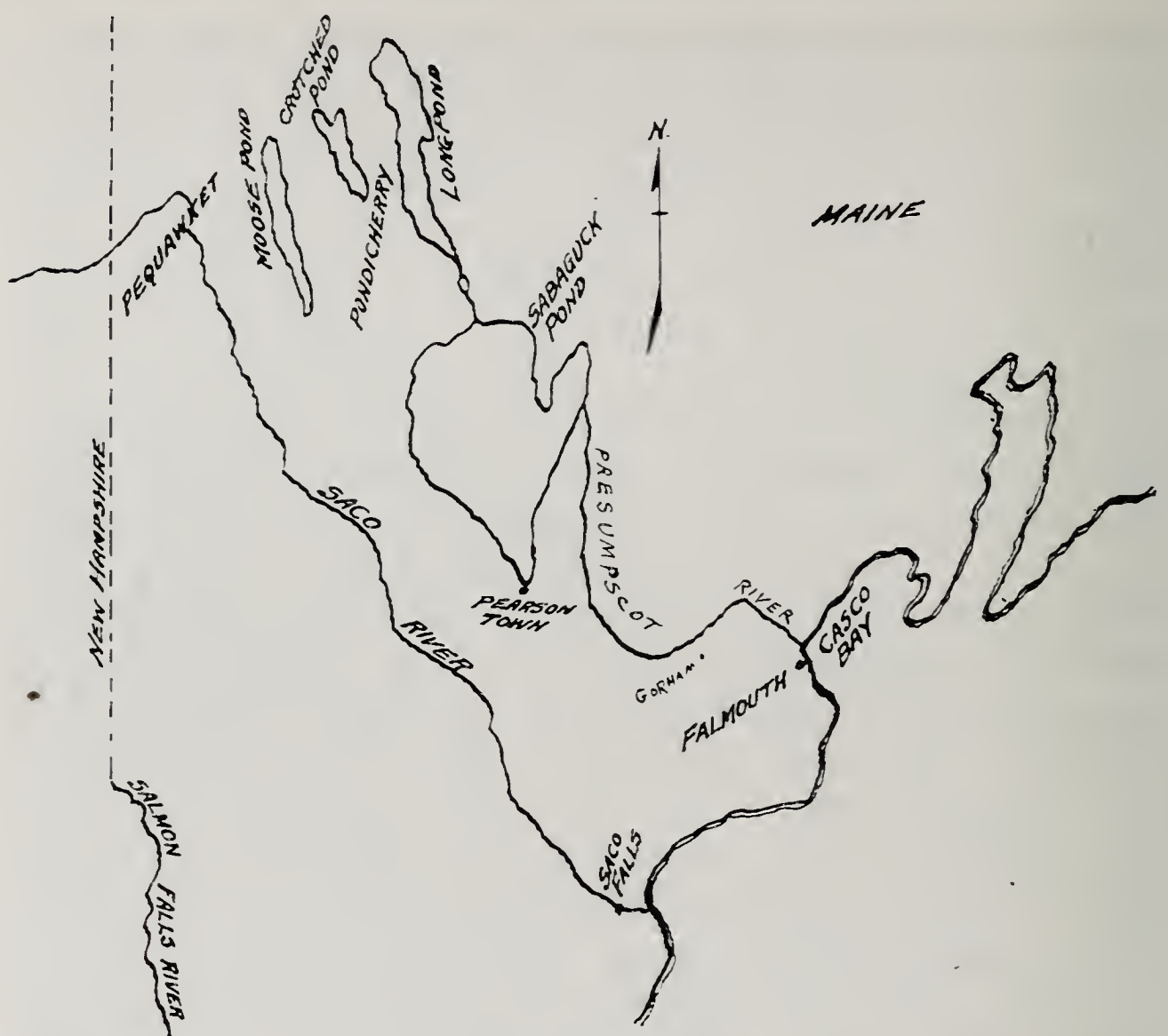
Just how much of this information the Committee had gathered, we may not know. Joseph Frye had probably explored much more of the surrounding wilderness than he included within his bounds. In the light of his later achievement, we may well suspect that Moody Bridges visited the Pequawket region and perhaps Pondicherry, very likely in the company of Colonel Frye. The Committee did acquire some valuable information about the geography of the land to the eastward which became very helpful. Mr. Bridges could have learned much if he had traveled a few miles easterly to the West Cove at the North Bridgton head of Long Pond, and he may well have made this trip. He may have learned much from hunters who had traveled the region and were coming to know the ponds and streams, as well as the hills, of Pondicherry. More likely, Mr. Bridges, or some observant explorer, climbed Pleasant Mountain and saw from its summit the uninhabited wilderness stretching far to the eastward, bordered by hills on every side, but presenting a long, verdant expanse of desirable land extending to the southward and bordered by the two large ponds which seemed to mark its boundaries. He could note the location of the hills and valleys, of the ponds and streams, and he could well imagine that the Long Pond far to the eastward was part of the waterway traveled by the Indians in their migratory trips between the mountains and the sea. Many of the old Indian trails and water routes were well known, and he had stumbled upon one of great importance to the Committee. This waterway would make the easterly side of the Pondicherry region easily accessible from the outside world.

Before the petition of 1765 was presented, the petition accompanying the plan which they had taken so long to prepare, the Committee acquired a general idea of the location and extent of Moose Pond and of Long Pond, and they had estimated roughly the distance between the two ponds. Therefore, they planned a township which would corner on Colonel Frye's township, at the point where Fryeburg, Sweden, and Bridgton cornered later, and

would lie fairly closely in the rectangular area between the two big ponds, in the very heart of the Pondicherry region. They abandoned the idea of a tract of land seven miles square, the customary dimension of a township grant, and asked for a strip of land nine miles long and six and a half miles wide, which would have fitted well into the space between the two ponds if the range lines had been run a few degrees nearer to the east-west line. The Committee probably did not call attention to the fact that this change in the shape of their proposed township added more than six thousand acres to their grant.

The years between 1761 and 1765 had not been wasted, although it is conceivable that the matter might have been settled much more speedily. Undoubtedly, the Committee deliberated long and carefully, weighing each decision in the light of the facts they were able to gather. Their strategy missed fire by only a slight margin. In a later petition to the General Court, dated May 27, 1767, the Committee revealed that they had found that Long Pond occupies much more of the land area than they had expected, that the southern end of Long Pond swings much farther to the west than they had known, and that they knew very little about the geography of the Pleasant Mountain angle between Fryeburg and Bridgton. As a matter of fact, if they had swung their rectangular township more nearly to a straight north and south direction, as will be shown later could have been quite easily accomplished, they would have been better satisfied with its location.

The Committee, however, had done very well. If they could not offer prospective settlers the lush meadows and fertile intervales of the Saco River Valley, they could give them well-timbered hills and fertile valleys, with an abundance of water power. Moreover, they had a township much more accessible than was Pequawket. For instance, Frye's grant was fifty miles from Falmouth (Portland), the nearest and most desirable trading center. Travel to this location was largely up the Saco River Valley, or along the water route of the Saco River, which



has been described as "almost a continuous succession of falls", but many traveled overland from Phillipstown (Sanford) to Cornish, then unsettled, across the Ossipee River, and through Brownfield, also unsettled. A township adjoining Frye's grant to the southward, where Brownfield is now situated, would also have had the Saco River as a road to the outside world.

From some source the Committee had learned that the Long Pond which was visible in the far distance from the peak of Pleasant Mountain, was the northernmost section of a waterway that extended southward even to Pearsontown (Standish), and afforded easy access by water to the eastern part of the Pondicherry township. This waterway, which had served the northern Indian tribes for ages past, would serve well the settlers they hoped to attract. In fact, this waterway was to prove to be so important in the early years of the history of their

township that we can well understand that it influenced their selection of a township site, perhaps far more than we know.

It seems, therefore, that by 1765 the Committee of the proprietors knew much better what they really wanted than when they presented their preliminary petition in 1761. Accordingly, they sent to the General Court a plan of "a township on the easterly side of the Saco River, adjoining Col. Joseph Frye's township, then called Pickwockett", and the General Court approved their request June 25, 1765. The thing was done. Their efforts had not been in vain. They had probably helped Colonel Frye to secure his grant, and he had assuredly helped them to "make their pitch" in Pondicherry. The Proprietors were now free to have their township surveyed into ranges and lots and to find purchasers for those lots. The surveying party would come to Pondicherry to do its work over the waterway from Pearsontown in the late summer of 1766.

Surveying the Grant

By 1765, the men who took part in the Canada Expedition of 1690 had probably all passed away, and whatever claim they had to remuneration from a township grant for their military services had long been vested in their legal representatives, who now became the proprietors of the new township, tentatively named Pondicherry. Before these proprietors could receive any financial benefits from the Pondicherry grant, however, they must have their land surveyed and laid out in well-marked ranges and lots, so that they could deliver to the purchasers of those lots clear titles with bounds duly specified. Undoubtedly, the greatest satisfaction Joseph Frye could derive from his holdings in the Pequawket grant was that he had found a home in a place apart from the cares and hardships of the world he had known, but he had sold much of his Pequawket land for a good price and had reaped a substantial financial return from his original investment of time and money. Of the Proprietors of Pondicherry, very few if any would come to make their homes in the wilderness demesne they now owned, but many of their descendants and relatives would come there to live, and many of the lots of land would be sold to settlers. Their main hope of remuneration would now lie in the sale of these lands.

Colonel Frye's training enabled him to direct the surveying party that came to Pequawket in 1762 to lot his grant, but of the Proprietors of Pondicherry no one seems to have had the training or ability to do this job, and they had to hire a competent surveyor to take charge of the work. We have seen how deliberately the proprietors went about the task of securing the grant in the years 1761 to 1765, and we now find the same deliberateness characterized their efforts to have the land surveyed and the lots placed on the market. We can well imagine the impatience of Moody Bridges, as he waited

through the summer of 1765 for a full year into the late summer of 1766 before a surveying party was sent to do the work. It could be that the Committee of the Proprietors had difficulty in agreeing upon the procedure to be followed, but at last a decision was made to appoint a special committee to get the work done. How the members of the Surveying Committee were selected is purely a matter of conjecture, but after due deliberation Moody Bridges was made the Chairman and two representatives of the Proprietors, Richard Peabody and Thomas Poor, were added to the committee. All three of these men came to Pondicherry with the surveying party in 1766, as men in the prime of life and well able to stand the rigors of life in the open for a few weeks. Using the titles which were theirs in 1766, they were Colonel Moody Bridges, 43 years of age; Captain Thomas Poor, 34 years of age, and Mr. Richard Peabody, 33 years of age.

Many years later, Isaac Bassett Choate penned some interesting comments regarding these men. Of Peabody he wrote:

"Captain Richard Peabody, of Boxford, a patriot of the Revolution, was the youngest son of Stephen and Hannah (Swan) Peabody. He was born April 13, 1733, and died June 7, 1830."

Captain Peabody's military title was earned in the Revolutionary War. He had twelve children and sent his sons into the Army as soon as they were old enough to serve. He bought and sold many lots of Bridgton land, but as far as we know, he never came to Bridgton to live. In June, 1782, however, he had met the requirements of the Proprietors in clearing some of his lots, making improvements, and settling some one on the land, and he was granted a merited lot. His second cousin, John Peabody, came to South Bridgton in the winter of 1783-4, and this branch of the Peabody family figured prominently in the early history of Bridgton. Richard Peabody lived to see Bridgton a thriving town.

Of Poor, Mr. Choate wrote:

"Colonel Thomas Poor was an elder brother of Gen-

eral Enoch Poor, of the Revolutionary Army. He was born in Andover, July 19, 1732, and died at Methuen, September 23, 1804."

He might have added that a sister of these two patriots, named Mehitable, was the wife of Joseph Frye, then living in Andover. This is still another link between Fryeburg and Bridgton. As far as we know, Thomas Poor never came to Bridgton to live, but he lived long enough to see Bridgton incorporated.

The Survey Committee had apparently been hand-picked. Each of the three men would come to Pondicherry and remain with the surveying crew part of the time while the work was being done, but the chief responsibility of this Committee was to find a capable man to take charge of the work. We may assume that Richard Peabody, who lived in Boxford, knew a capable surveyor in his home town who seemed to have the necessary qualifications, and it came about that the Committee engaged Solomon Wood to take charge of the crew of men who would make the long trip to Pondicherry. Five assistants were engaged, whose names were Adams, Field, Parker, Stacy, and Stevens. Of the first four men, we know only their names, and after their return from the surveying trip, it is doubtful if any one of the four men had any subsequent connection with the settlement or development of the town of Bridgton.

The fifth man, Jacob Stevens, is listed by Marshall Cram rightfully as the first assistant. He was the ranking member of the crew, receiving more pay than any other assistant, and probably carrying more responsibility. We may suspect that he kept a diary, or at least that he made notes for future use. He acquired an intimate knowledge of all parts of the township, which enabled him later to buy and sell many of the best lots of land which he helped to survey. He was the only man in the entire surveying party who later became a resident of Bridgton, and he is listed by Marshall Cram as the second settler. The Proprietors contracted with him in 1768 to build a saw mill to saw lumber for the use of the settlers and to

erect a grist mill. Both of these mills were erected on the stream which is the outlet of Crotched Pond (Highland Lake), and this stream became known as Stevens Brook. Jacob Stevens was born in Andover on November 7, 1725, and died in Bridgton in November, 1802. Many of his descendants have become prominent and highly respected citizens of the town.

Very little has come to light about Solomon Wood, except in his connection with the surveying of Pondicherry, and we might, indeed, know very little about that enterprise were it not for the fact that he kept a diary for the entire trip. Any surveyor must keep notes of the lines he runs and of the bounds he establishes, but Mr. Wood did more than that. He provided himself with a little blank book of convenient pocket size, primarily, as we may suppose, for the purpose of preserving his surveyor's notes, which were kept meticulously, lot by lot, and range by range, but the little book had more pages than he would need for this record, and in the latter half of the book, he kept a journal for sixty-two consecutive days. This daily record, upon whose pages the ink for nearly two centuries has dried, may still be read. The pages are brown with age and fragile, but the ink was good and the writing is remarkably legible. The little book is known as Solomon Wood's Diary and is owned by Ernest Nichols Stevens, of South Bridgton, who is a fifth-generation descendant of the Jacob Stevens who probably saw Mr. Wood make hundreds of the entries in the notebook while in the wilderness of Pondicherry. It has been a priceless privilege, through the courtesy of Mr. Stevens, to make full use of this Diary in preparing this monograph on this phase of early Bridgton history.

Solomon Wood probably recorded his surveyor's notes mainly on location, but we may be sure that by the camp fires at night and in camp on rainy days he kept these notes in order and his Diary up to date. Some of his entries are brief, and all are concise. To record bounds he used abbreviations and cryptic sentences, occasionally

adding helpful comments. The record of the southeast corner of lot eight in range eight reads as follows: "No 8 a Black Burch m 9/8 west of a Little Brook—a good lot." My ancestral farm occupied the major part of this lot, and I can testify to the accuracy of his comment. The journal entries in his diary are often brief, as for October 5: "5 Sunday a fair Day." Rarely, indeed, does Mr. Wood permit himself the luxury of extended comments, and these never approach prolixity. The journal is still interesting reading, expressed in Mr. Wood's own brand of English and spelling.

In the History of the First Congregational Church, of Boxford, Massachusetts, prepared by Winnifrid C. Parkhurst, we find that Solomon Wood was admitted to membership on April 11, 1742, and he rated the following comment from her:

"Solomon Wood, 'well known surveyor and a man of much learning for the times,' when elected Clerk of the Parish, wrote a 'Caution to Clerks' on the fly leaf of a new blank book given him for records March 20, 1765. Mr. Wood lived where Mr. Raymond Perley now resides (1952) on Ipswich Road, and built that house about 1745."

In her book we find Solomon Wood's "Caution to Clerks" printed in full, a little poem of seven quatrains, and as we peruse it, we are reminded of the longest entry Mr. Wood ever permitted himself to make in his Diary in Pondicherry, when he indited a nineteen-line original poem under the date of September 28, 1766.

The day was Sunday and the surveying crew was idle. Mr. Wood, and presumably the members of his crew, observed the Sabbath habitually and religiously, attending church services whenever possible, and refraining from all unnecessary labor. On that particular Sunday in late September, which Mr. Wood described as "a fair Day but Cloudy", he seems to have sat down at their temporary camp on the west side of Crotched Pond (Highland Lake), or perhaps under some spreading tree on a height of land where the beauties of nature before

him turned his thoughts to spiritual matters. It could have been on Hio Ridge. In some such primitive setting, he allowed his poetic fancy to take flight, and as we read the little verse which he wrote in his Diary nearly two hundred years ago, we find ourselves pondering the comment by Winnifrid Parkhurst that Mr. Wood was "a man of much learning for the times". The penmanship is good and the writing well preserved. It is well worth the reading.

One authority has referred to Mr. Wood as Colonel Solomon Wood, but we have found no record of his military service. We do know that he was an experienced surveyor, and we know that he seems to have been able to organize and to lead a surveying expedition into the Maine wilderness so successfully that he gained the respect of the men for whom he worked and of the men who worked for him. He went about his preparations methodically, consulting with the other members of the party, and gathering stores for the two months they would be away. He left his home August 25, 1766, just fourteen months after the General Court had confirmed the Pondicherry grant, and he returned to his home October 25th, just two months later. He had been in the wilderness during the months of September and October, perhaps the two best months of the year for such an experience. Mr. Wood and his crew really lived in Pondicherry for nearly six weeks, arriving September 6, and departing October 17, at a time when the hunting season was good, and the crisp fall weather reduced the annoyance of insect pests. The principal annoyance seems to have been the rain. In the period of sixty-two days covered by his Diary, Mr. Wood mentioned rain on at least seventeen days, and six days were lost because of stormy weather. As a matter of fact, during the entire six weeks they were in Pondicherry, Mr. Wood recorded surveying activities on only twenty-nine separate days. Incidentally, the men could fish on Sundays and on rainy days.

In the little notebook, quite apart from the surveying notes and the Diary, we find a list of the stores he gath-

ered for the trip, and the list indicates more clearly than anything else the magnitude of the enterprise. In addition to the stores which some other members of the party carried for their own use, he collected such items as: 167 lb. of pork, 10 lb. of Bacon, 24 lb. of Cheese, a bushel of White Beans, a half bushel of Salt, 32½ gal. of Rum, over 300 lb. of Bread, a lb. of Coffee, a lb. of Tea, a supply of ammunition, nails, and cooking utensils. All these supplies had to be transported from some point in Massachusetts to Pondicherry in Maine.

The process of engaging the five assistants, of collecting the necessary stores, and of making final plans for the journey to the Maine wilderness, may have consumed more time than we imagine, but at last all was in readiness, and the expedition was started. They set sail from Newburyport and landed in Casco Bay, which Mr. Wood calls "Cascobey", but because of stormy weather and contrary winds, they were five days making the voyage. With all the supplies, the personal baggage of the men, and Mr. Wood's chest of tools and surveying instruments, they had a considerable cargo on the boat, and when they reached the shore at Falmouth (Portland) and began the overland trip to the foot of Sebago Lake, they had a real transportation problem. The supplies and equipment were carted, probably in high-wheeled ox-carts, to Pearsontown (Standish), and then they were taken by boat to the North Bridgton head of Long Pond, which they called the "West Cove". When they reached their prospective camp site on Saturday, September 6, Mr. Wood had been thirteen days on the way.

These men were the forerunners of the many who would use this waterway in the years to come. Many settlers, single men and families, would come up over Sebago Lake, Songo River, Brandy Pond, and Long Pond in the next quarter of a century, and this waterway would remain for a century and a half a popular as well as a useful route of travel. Solomon Wood's terminology was somewhat different from ours. He called Pearsontown (Standish) "Persontown", or "Person Town", and refer-

red to the trip as over "Sabaguck Pond", up the "Riples", and over "Little Pond," and "long pond." Mr. Wood referred to the boat used to transport the supplies up the waterway as a "Canno", or canoe, and they may have used more than one canoe to make the trip. In any case, a canoe had to make more than a single trip, especially up the "Riples", where the going was hard. The men had to work their way to Pondicherry, and were probably relieved to reach their camp site.

The list of supplies quoted above indicates that the men did not neglect to provide liquid refreshment, perhaps on the assumption that in Pondicherry they would not find good drinking water. This foresight worked to their advantage on at least two occasions. In order to have their supplies transported from Gorham town to Pearsontown, they paid partly with the coinage of the realm and partly with four quarts of rum. A later entry in the little book is suggestive. We find on one page: "Simon Fry Dr. one quart of Rum". We suspect that this had to do with the frequent crossings of the Saco River. In later years Deacon Simon Frye operated a ferry in Menotomy for the convenience of travelers between Fryeburg and Bridgton, and we suspect that he may have used his boat to carry across the river any members of the surveying party who desired passage. He was not yet engaged in the ferrying business, and in those days such courtesies as he showed the members of the surveying party could quite appropriately be acknowledged as indicated above.

It is evident that Richard Peabody came with Solomon Wood to Pondicherry, for the Diary notes on September 6: "Peabody & I Lodged at ye Camp." The camp thus established came to be known as the "General Camp". The township was so large that the men could not expect to return to this location every night, and they would make temporary camps in various places wherever night overtook them. This camp served as the general headquarters of the party for six weeks, and it is quite possible that the men utilized their spare time to build a

log cabin of sorts. The rainy weather would make a good shelter desirable, and plenty of timber was easily available for the walls and birch bark for the roof. Within a year or so, Stephen Gates would be cutting timber on this location to clear the land and to erect the log cabins of our first settler, Benjamin Kimball, in 1768.

On September 7, 1766, Mr. Wood wrote: "Sunday we went up to Pickwacet got there about 8 o clock". He must have meant eight o'clock in the evening. To reach Pequawket as early as eight o'clock on Sunday morning would have necessitated a start well before sunrise, and it is much more reasonable to suppose that the men were busily occupied Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning in building their shelter, putting their camp in order, packing away their stores in such a way that they would be secure from the depredations of wild beasts, and making up the packs of equipment and provisions they would need when they started work Monday morning. Some one "Killed a Dear in long pond" on Saturday, and they had fresh venison to go with their pork and beans.

The survey of the township must begin at the east corner of Colonel Frye's grant, and this bound must be located exactly. Solomon Wood made no record of the route they followed to Pequawket. Neither did he leave any hint to let us know if any one of the group knew the way or had ever made the trip before. As a matter of fact, if we have read Solomon Wood's Diary correctly, a few simple directions would enable any member of the surveying party to reach Frye's east corner with comparatively little trouble.

When the Mullikin-Bridges-Perley Committee submitted their plan of the township to the General Court in 1765 for confirmation, they had been obliged to run the west side line of the township, the north line, and a part of the east side line. Solomon Wood always seemed to know just where to find these boundary lines. They had been run by a competent surveyor, and it is within the bounds of possibility that Mr. Wood himself ran the lines. Regardless of who did the work, the north head line was

there, running from Frye's east corner north sixty-five degrees east, passing approximately two miles north of the West Cove, and the blazed markers and the paths through the undergrowth should have been discernible for at least a part of the way. This head line was actually about seven miles in length, and Wood's party could proceed northwestward from the West Cove with reasonable assurance that they could find it and follow it up to and around the head of Crotched Pond (Highland Lake) and Moose Pond to the Saco River. We may remember that these ponds occupied less area in those days, because no dams had been erected at their outlets.

Whatever the path they may have chosen, they probably found Frye's east corner and proceeded onward to Pequawket. They probably reached the river near the place in Menotomy where Deacon Simon Frye would later operate a ferry, and he may have helped them to cross. The journey may have consumed more time than they expected, because they seem not to have reached Pequawket until eight o'clock in the evening, two hours after sunset. The last few miles could have been hard going.

The men very likely looked forward with pleasure to their walk of well over a dozen miles, for scattered over the Saco Valley township, they would find the homes of some of their friends and former neighbors from Andover and vicinity. Some of those families had been in Pequawket more than two years and had their wilderness homes well established. At this season of the year, they would be harvesting their crops and preparing for the long winter ahead. These travelers from Massachusetts would find a warm welcome awaiting them in the log cabins scattered over the intervales, and happy hours would be spent in exchanging news and gossip. During the next six weeks, several members of the surveying party would visit this settlement on occasion and for various reasons.

Colonel Joseph Frye may have visited in Pequawket at this time, but such an event is doubtful. He built his house in the grant in 1768, and thereafter made Pequawket his home.

It would seem that the members of the surveying crew had a good time in the settlement and that they did not rendezvous very early on Monday morning, for Mr. Wood noted in his Diary: "8 Monday went to Run ye North line Campted a bout ye 3d Lot." His surveying notes for this first day are as follows:

"Began at Collo. Frys East Corner Bound
1 Range No. 1 Frys Corner on ye E line
No. 1 lot is in the Bog No Bound
Erected. the N line Run North 65 D East
No. 2 a moose bush—mark 2/3
No. 3 a hemlock mark 3/4
Lost ye End int."

If we interpret these notes correctly, the actual surveying work began under difficult conditions. The historian of the Town of Waterford, Henry P. Warren, wrote that these lots were "very imperfectly surveyed", and that they were not "lotted until 1793". He says that when Waterford was surveyed in 1774, the surveyors, one of whom was Colonel Joseph Frye, "could not find the northwest boundary line of Bridgton." Solomon Wood stated the case. The first lot was in the bog near the head of Moose Pond, and several of his boundary marks on that line had to be placed on bushes or small trees because no better markers were available. It is little wonder that after eight years, those boundary markers could not be found or identified. Even the path his men had to cut through the underbrush had grown up by that time, and no one had taken pains to renew his markings.

Solomon Wood began the survey in some of the most difficult terrain to be found in the township. He was probably dismayed with the results of his first day's work, and he recorded for the following day:

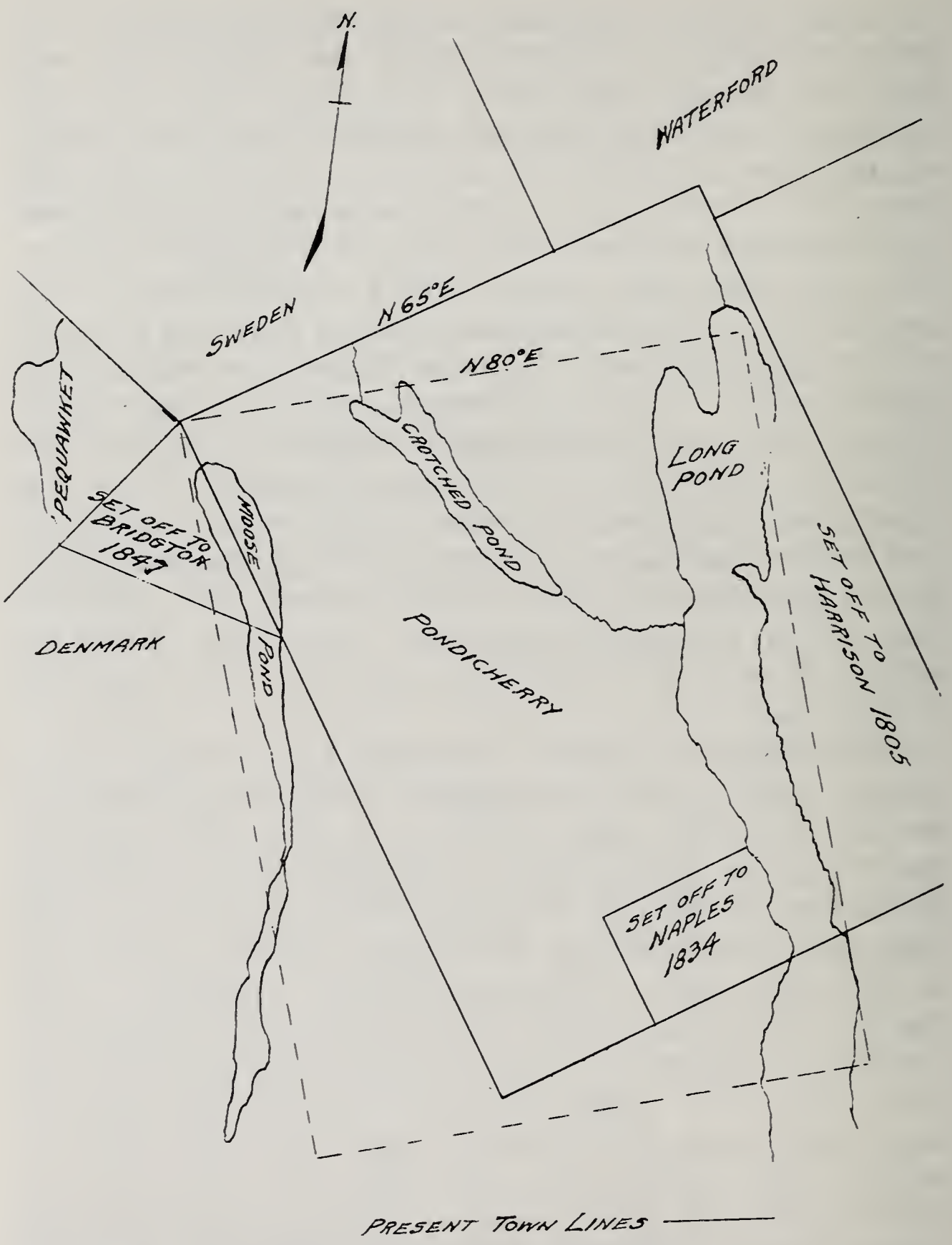
"9 Tusday a fair morning Set of a bout Sunrise to Run ye North Line Run of all but 2 Lots on that Range Campted by a meado."

The work went better on that day. They were in better territory, and the crew soon began to function, encountering only the ordinary difficulties to be met in surveying an uncharted wilderness.

Maine towns were laid out according to several different plans, but the plan adopted for Pondicherry was ideal. Mr. Wood's task was to run range lines across the township from west to east one hundred rods apart, and to run lot lines from north to south one hundred sixty rods apart, thus dividing the area into rectangular plots of land containing one hundred acres each, checkerboard fashion. His notes show very clearly that he ran all range lines one hundred ten rods apart, and all lot lines one hundred seventy-six rods apart, the extra distance to compensate for the sag of the chain, a common practice in those days. If these distances were accurately measured, the lots then contained one hundred twenty-one acres each. There was indeed some chain sag, but nearly every lot contained well over one hundred acres. It is easy to find range lines which lie one hundred ten rods and more apart. The distances were not all accurately measured, as we shall see later, but Mr. Wood did a fair job according to the standards of the times.

We shall never know who made the important decision to run the north line as Mr. Wood was directed to run it: "North 65 degrees East", but when that decision was made, the exact location of Bridgton was determined. The desired width had been established at six and a half miles, and the length at nine miles, giving a total area of fifty-eight and a half square miles. A glance at the map of Pondicherry which Mr. Wood probably made for the Proprietors back in Andover, or Boxford, made clear to them that a fairly large section of the southeast corner of the township lay in and across Long Pond. This fact had escaped their notice when the north head line, or even the west side line, had been run. If the east side line had been run the full distance, instead of just to the Harrison head of Long Pond, the survey must have disclosed to the Proprietors that they had made a miscalculation.

Because the matter did not come to their attention until Solomon Wood had completed his work and the lines had all been run, it was too late to swing the township more nearly to a north and south line so that it would



lie more completely between Moose Pond and Long Pond. If Mr. Wood had been instructed to run the north head line, North 80 degrees East, or nearly so, things might have worked out better, but evidently no one knew this at the time. Within a few months, the Proprietors would send to the General court a petition to have a compensatory addition of wild lands in the Pleasant Mountain area, but

here again they would change their minds and withdraw the petition, preferring their original bounds.

Long years after the Mullikin-Bridges-Perley Committee had ceased to function, the shape of the township would be altered. In 1805, about 8500 acres of the land lying east of Long Pond would be taken from Bridgton to form part of the new Town of Harrison. In 1834, about 2500 acres would be taken from the southeast corner to form part of the new Town of Naples. In 1847, by way of compensation, Bridgton would annex about 3700 acres of the land lying west of Moose Pond, taking it from the Towns of Denmark and Fryeburg, to form an extension known for many years as "Texas", and now known as West Bridgton. The original 37,440 acres in the township would be reduced to about 30,000.

Solomon Wood's crew surveyed the section lying west of Long Pond, an area that was known for many years as the Western Division, and they did not take time to cross Long Pond to survey the area designated as the Eastern Division, which was later set off to the Town of Harrison. His final map may have included, therefore, around three hundred lots, varying in size somewhat, but presumably containing one hundred acres each. These lots of land were carefully listed and then drawn by lot to make eighty-six portions of the grant, which were called Rights, each Right containing three lots of land in the Western Division, and one lot of land in the unsurveyed and undivided Eastern Division. This neglected area was surveyed many years later by Benjamin Kimball, Jr., a son of the first settler, Benjamin Kimball, and many of these lots in the Eastern Division were awarded as "merited lots". Although many lots of land, as surveyed and numbered, lay partly in one or the other of the various ponds which are scattered over the township, the Rights were supposed to be of about equal value, with the apportionment fairly made.

All of this clerical work would be done later in Andover by the Committeemen. After the eighty-six Rights

were properly assembled, they would be drawn by or for the various Proprietors, who were the heirs, legal representatives, or the assigns of the original grantees. Sixty-one Rights were so drawn. Under the terms prescribed by the General Court, one Right was set aside for the first settled minister (Right No. 1), one for the support of the ministry (Right No. 2), and one for Harvard College (Right No. 35). Right No. 42 was set aside for the support of the common schools. Each of the first three beneficiaries was entitled to one sixty-fourth part of the township by the terms of the grant, but each settled for one eighty-sixth part and was apparently satisfied. After this drawing was completed, there remained nineteen Rights, which were reserved by the Proprietors and later sold to settlers or land speculators. Some of the Committee members drew Rights or acquired them.

Right No. 70 was drawn in the name of Benjamin Mullikin, Esquire.

The Norman Libby manuscripts list Rights No. 6, 15, and 23, as drawn to James Bridges, but such deeds as we have found only partially confirm this. Right No. 6 seems to have been drawn in the name of Thomas Berry, and he sold part of this Right to Asael Foster on March 21, 1774. Right No. 15 seems to have passed to Moody Bridges, because on May 4, 1778, he sold part or all of this Right to Thomas Porter, and the deed states that this was the original Right of James Bridges. Right No. 23 seems to have passed to John Bridges, Moody's brother, because on March 19, 1773, John Bridges sold the Right to Jacob Stevens, the second settler in Bridgton. It was unusual for more than one Right to be drawn to any Proprietor, and there is no explanation to show why this should have happened in the case of James Bridges.

Thomas Perley may have inherited a Right, but no Right was drawn in the name of Perley. He later owned Right No. 30 and various other lots of land in Bridgton.

Right No. 78 was drawn to the name of Stephen Peabody, Richard's father, and he later owned Rights No. 47 and 63.

Right No. 84 was drawn in the name of Thomas Poor, who later also owned Rights No. 32, 67, and 73. He had owned three Rights in Rowley Canada.

The clerical work involved in assembling and apportioning the Rights would be based upon the notes turned in by Solomon Wood, and upon such maps as he might make of the area he had surveyed. His notes were somewhat jumbled when others in the crew surveyed some of the lines and gave their notes to him to be recorded, but the data were all kept in the little notebook, blank no longer. They were vitally important to the Proprietors in the early days, but their usefulness has diminished with the passing of the years.

Just where the members of the Survey Committee were on Monday, September 8, 1766, is not clear. We may believe that Richard Peabody was faithfully on the job. He seems to have remained loyally with Solomon Wood and his crew from the start of their expedition to October 10th, when the Diary records that "Peabody and Stacy went to Pickwacet at noon", after which there is no further reference to his presence. The Diary records for Saturday, September 20th, that "Capt. Poor came up", and very likely Thomas Poor joined the party then for the first time. He came over from Pequawket on horseback, accompanied by a Mr. Bradley, probably Abraham Bradley, an early settler in Pequawket, and on the next day, Sunday, Mr. Bradley "went to Pickwacut with Capt. Poors horse".

The Diary obviously does not record all of the arrivals and departures of the members of the Surveying party, and it is easy for us to arrive at erroneous conclusions regarding the length of time the members of the Survey Committee remained with the crew. We do not know when Moody Bridges came on the scene. He is not mentioned in the Diary until September 25th, when Wood wrote that "Mr. Bridge & Parker went to Pickwacet". If they could read weather signs, they may have gone to avoid the two-day drenching rain that followed on Friday and Saturday,

September 26 and 27. A Pequawket cabin would be much more comfortable than a Pondicherry lean-to.

We do not think that Mr. Bridges joined the party much before September 25th. Mr. Wood begins his record for September 22nd as follows:

"Monday we took Provisions 8 of us and went to Lay out ye land between Crotched pond & Moose pond."

We must conclude that the eight members of this group who went around the head of Crotched Pond (Highland Lake) to survey the Ingalls Hill section were Peabody, Poor, Wood, and the five assistants. Moody Bridges does not seem to have been included. It seems, therefore, that his first visit to Pondicherry at this time was somewhat brief. He found the men working well over toward Pequawket, and because he returned to Pequawket on the 25th, he may not have visited the "General Camp" at all on this trip. Solomon Wood wrote one of his most interesting comments in his Diary for September 30:

"30 Tusday. Surveyed over to Moose Pond Run out y Peaces of Lots Bridges & Parker came from Pickwacut—we laid out with out fire food or Blankets got No Cold—"

We can not overlook the possibility that the night in question may have been a very warm night for the season of the year, but knowing our September weather and the customs of the early frontier settlements, we could assume that Mr. Bridges and his friend Parker brought back from Pequawket a supply of the liquid refreshment which would have helped the members of the group to lie out in the open without fire, food, or blankets, without catching cold.

It is possible that the entire Survey Committee was on the job for the next few days to supervise the work. Thomas Poor was not mentioned after Saturday, September 27, and we do not know when he left. After Richard Peabody left on October 10th, it is possible that Mr. Bridges was the only member of their Committee still with the crew. He remained until the last gun was fired, and for

the last few days he became almost a member of the surveying crew.

The surveying work was interrupted repeatedly by rainy weather, but gradually the crew worked down the township range by range toward the south bounds. Perhaps the work speeded up somewhat after September 28, when Mr. Wood recorded an important decision. He wrote: ". . this Day Divided in three parts". The assumption is that he divided his men into three crews, but he does not say who was the head man in the two crews that did not include him. This decision seems to have been reached while Thomas Poor and Richard Peabody were with the party.

On Sunday evening, October 12th, Mr. Wood recorded: "Mr. Fry Engals Holt Came to Camp to help Survey—".

This was two days after Richard Peabody went over to Pequawket, and he may have sent Mr. Holt to Pondicherry to speed the work along. Some one wanted the work speeded up. It could be that the October nights were becoming a bit sharp for the Committeemen, and perhaps for the members of the crew. Possibly Mr. Bridges was likewise interested to hasten matters, for Mr. Wood made the following entries in his Diary:

"13 Monday Mr. Bridges Ran the Range 22 made 35 Rods Error

"14 A Tusday ye 23 Range Killd a Cub Errd. 20 R

"15 Wednesday Bridges Ran Range 26 Erd 20

"16 Thursday Bridges Ran Range 27 Erd 30 R.—"

The accuracy of Solomon Wood's lines has been questioned by many surveyors who have tried since that time to follow them and to reestablish his bounds, but matters were not improved when Moody Bridges became inspired to take charge of the compass and run lines. We may notice, however, that his error on October 15th was no larger than the error made on October 14th by some other surveyor, presumably Solomon Wood himself, and in justice to Mr. Bridges, it should be added that the errors he made were not startling. In reading the Diary,

we feel that Mr. Wood took care to make it very clear that Mr. Bridges ran the Ranges 22, 26, and 27, and his surveying notes particularly specify this fact. He well knew that many of his own lines would show errors nearly as large, and it was comforting to him to find that one of the Committee members had "erred," as he wrote it, as much as he.

It seems that three separate crews were running the lines, but no reference was made to errors they made. The bounds were clearly marked on the west side line of the township, which had been run before Solomon Wood began the 1766 survey, and the accuracy of the west end of each range line could be checked. Sometimes, they came out fairly close to the "Town line" marker, and on one occasion they were very close. It was indeed a difficult undertaking to run a line by compass across the township, several miles over good and bad terrain, up hill and down hill, across streams and ponds, and arrive at a designated point, and we can well undertand that when Mr. Wood ran the line of Range 20, nearly five miles from the shore of Long Pond to the west side line, and came out almost precisely at the desired bound, he was sufficiently elated to make the journal entry on October 11 in his Diary: "Close with in one yard the head Pine". It was a rare achievement for him. It seems that his surveying standards were no higher than his standards of English usage, and yet we may well believe that he was a qualified surveyor and ran his lines with a degree of accuracy that was acceptable. Mapping farms in a wilderness did not call for precision accuracy.

On Thursday, October 16, 1766, Solomon Wood made this entry in his Diary:

"This Night Dismist my hands And Left Surveying good weather a grand frolick at Night".

The Western Division of Pondicherry had been surveyed, and it was probably with the full consent of the Committee that the Eastern Division was to remain undivided.

Conclusion

The surveying task was ended, and all the men were free to leave the wilderness and return to their homes. Carefree and anticipating their homeward journey, they relaxed and had a good time. Moody Bridges was present, probably the only member of the Survey Committee who stayed until the work was completed. He had shared their work, and he now shared in their festivities. Perhaps enough of their store of liquid refreshment remained to contribute appreciably to the success of their "grand frolick". On Friday, October 17, Mr. Wood made this journal entry:

"17 Friday Bridges went to Pigwact in the morning a bout 11 o Clock we set of from the Camp for home".

We might pause here to add that John Stuart Barrows, in his history of Fryeburg, listed thirty variant spellings of the early name of the Fryeburg region, Pequawket, but it is possible that Solomon Wood used some variants unknown to Mr. Barrows.

On that last morning at the West Cove, Moody Bridges said farewell to the men and departed for home by way of Pequawket. The men spent their last morning in Pondicherry dismantling their camp and packing the equipment and supplies in their boats. It seems reasonable to suppose that they had more than a single boat to convey all the men and equipment. They floated down the ponds and even down the "ripples" that afternoon. The journal entry cited above does not inform us just who left the camp at 11 o'clock, but we could imagine the crew left later in the afternoon, because Mr. Wood states that they "got as far as Colo fry Island this Night with Defucty." This island in Sebago Lake was named for a Captain Frye, however, and not for Colonel Joseph Frye.

This island is well down the big lake, and they reached Pearsontown (Standish) at around ten o'clock

in the morning on Saturday, October 18, and spent that night in Gorham. Mr. Wood had parted with his chest of tools and equipment, having arranged to have it sent overland to Newbury. He and his men kept the Sabbath, and on Monday arrived at "Sawco faulls" in time for breakfast. Soon after leaving Saco, he "parted with" his men, and thereafter traveled alone Monday and a part of Tuesday. Somewhere beyond Berwick, he was overtaken by Moody Bridges traveling on horseback, just coming home from Pequawket, where he had apparently spent a few pleasant hours with some of his friends. On this 21st day of October, Mr. Wood wrote in his Diary the last reference to Mr. Bridges as follows:

"Mr. Bridges overtook me I Rode his horse to Colo Titcombs Drank Some flip with Mr. Bridges Lodged at Bror. Woods".

Moody Bridges was probably well-mounted, and the ease with which he seems to have been traveling this coast road could indeed suggest to us that he was accustomed to such jaunts to and from Pequawket. He probably reached his home in Andover by the next day, with a feeling of relief that the surveying job had been finished at last.

Solomon Wood spent Wednesday, October 22, which happened to be another of those rainy days, visiting a friend, and so did not reach home until shortly after noon on Saturday, October 25. He had directed a prolonged and difficult undertaking, managing a crew of five men on the job for six weeks and more, apparently without trouble, and he could well have enjoyed a deserved rest. He did not suspect that he would be remembered by posterity mainly because of the little book he carried in his pocket.

The records kept by Solomon Wood in the little pocket notebook are just what we might expect them to be, that is, a variety of items too important to get lost, therefore more or less hastily committed to paper under difficult conditions. Besides the Surveyor's notes and the Diary, he included a hodge-podge of miscellaneous no-

tations. The records of lines and bounds are still interesting, but of little value, and the miscellaneous data were never of much value to any one except Solomon Wood. The section known as the Diary, however, has a special significance. It is the only document in existence, known to us, which can reveal to us something of the real man we know as Moody Bridges.

The attitude of the surveyor toward the several members of the Survey Committee appointed to direct his work, is important. In his Diary, he always refers to Richard Peabody as "Peabody". Thomas Poor is always "Capt. Poor". Each man is mentioned five times, and one is always given his military title, while the other is always mentioned in terms of familiarity. Richard Peabody was Solomon Wood's neighbor in Boxford, to be sure, but he seems to have had a friendly attitude that we do not sense in the case of Thomas Poor, who could never let Mr. Wood forget that he had an officer's rating.

We find eight references to Moody Bridges in the Diary, and he is mentioned four times in the surveying notes. Although he had seen considerable military service before 1766, and was rated as a Colonel, at no time was he given his military title. In the Diary, Mr. Wood refers to him four times as "Mr. Bridges" and four times as "Bridges". He refers to him in the surveying notes four times as "Bridges".

If we have read the Diary correctly, the omission of the title of respect seems to have been inspired by the spirit of the occasion, rather than as a disrespectful lapse of propriety. The first time Mr. Wood used the familiar form was on September 30, when "Bridges & Parker came over from Pickwacet we laid out without fire food or Blankets got No Cold". The next two times were after Mr. Bridges had in effect made himself one of the surveying crew and had surveyed three ranges in the South Bridgton area with results only mediocre. The last time was the morning after their "grand frolick at Night", when Mr. Bridges had apparently been "one of the boys" at the party, and in the spirit of good fellowship that may

have hovered still over the West Cove, Mr. Wood wrote in his journal entry for October 17th that "Bridges went to Pigwact in the morning a bout 11 o Clock".

A careful reading of the Diary, however, shows clearly that in mingling with the men in those moments of familiarity, Moody Bridges lost no whit of the respect they all had for him. He was a man of wealth and prominence, a man of importance, and as a former military officer, there may have been about him an air of command, a reserve or dignity, which was something less than austerity, but which was such as would win and retain the respect of those associated with him. He was sufficiently democratic and friendly to be a man among men, but enough of a man to be always a leader.

In the study of a historical character whom we would like to present in a favorable light, it is easy at the distance of two centuries to magnify or to give undue prominence to his commendable qualities and to palliate or to ignore his faults and mistakes, but we have tried to let the facts speak for themselves. Perhaps in fairness we should say that the more we have studied his career, the greater has become our respect for Moody Bridges. It is easy to understand how the Proprietors, who knew, far better than we may know at this distance, how much he had done to secure and to promote the Pondicherry grant, came to pay him the deserved tribute of naming their township for him.

In "Sebago Lake Land", published in 1949 by Herbert G. Jones, Moody Bridges is mentioned as the "leading proprietor" of Bridgton, but the author assumed that Mr. Bridges "had no active interest in the future welfare of the town, for he appeared no longer on the scene, and was merely a land speculator, as were most of the proprietors of that period".

We know that Moody Bridges left Pondicherry behind him in 1766 and went home to Andover, but he was by no means done with the township. For a decade or more, he served as Proprietors' Clerk in Andover, and for many years he was a member of the Committee of the

Proprietors who had in charge the sale of the delinquent Rights and the Rights originally reserved to the Proprietors. His name appears on several petitions sent to the General Court in the interests of the settlement, and these petitions required time and labor on his part. Very likely we shall always underestimate the amount of time in his busy life that he devoted to securing the Pondicherry grant and to the growth and welfare of the early settlement. He certainly maintained an active interest in the affairs of Bridgton during the decade he served as Clerk of the Proprietors, and for all we know he may have made several more trips to the town through Pequawket or the West Cove. We have found his name on many deeds for the purchase or sale of many Rights and lots of land in Bridgton in the early days of the settlement, but his address was always Andover. While he never gave his address as Bridgton, or Bridgetown, he was always interested in attracting settlers to the town. His real estate deals served to remunerate him only in part for his services. From the deeds we have found recorded, it would seem that he gave to Bridgton far more than Bridgton gave to him.

Moody Bridges had a long and honorable career. He was always an energetic and busy man, but even in his later years he found many duties to occupy his attention. As a respected and honored citizen of Andover, he served on many important committees and held many civic offices. He was a Representative to the General Court from Andover in at least 1773 and 1774, and when the first Provincial Congress convened in Salem, October 4, 1774, he was a delegate sent from Andover.

Such was the man whose name was given to Bridgton.

He had helped to make history by helping to build a town. On February 7, 1794, the town of Bridgton was incorporated, and Moody Bridges was still living to see his boyhood dream become a reality. He had, in effect, established a monument to the memory of his grandfather, James Bridges.

He was approaching fourscore years of age when he died, and the epitaph on his gravestone in Andover best sums up his career:

"He was a man eminently useful in his day.
He lived, beloved, revered, and died greatly
lamented by all his family and acquaintances"

Acknowledgments

This brief monograph covers a period of Bridgton history that has been unexplored hitherto, and because the data have been assembled from so many sources, no adequate bibliography is possible.

Many important references are cited in the text, however, and grateful recognition must be given here of encouragement from two Bridgton historians, Ernest Stevens and Guy Monk, and painstaking editorial supervision and proofreading of the text by my daughter, Dorothy Hale Davis.

Blynn Edwin Davis

Bridgton, Maine
May 31, 1959

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